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[Istanbul TERCUMAN 26 Jan]

PNC FAILS TO AGREE ON NEW PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LD261123 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 24 Jan 79 pp 1, 19 LD

[AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM correspondent report]

[Excerpt] Damascus--The Palestine National Council [PNC] concluded its 14th session early yesterday after failing to elect a new PLO Executive Committee. The PNC, however, has extended the term of the present 15-man committee.

Although there was complete agreement on seating the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] on the committee, there was obvious division over the Fatah movement's insistence on increasing its representation. All the resistance factions have rejected this request, saying that Fatah should be satisfied with its present two representatives who are Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Political Department Faruq Qaddumi.

Conference sources said that 'Arafat proposed several formulas for conciliation between the varying views. But all these formulas meant giving Fatah three seats, excluding the representation of small organizations and increasing the number of seats of organizations currently represented in the PLO such as As-Sa'iqah and the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP]. Subsequently, 'Arafat suggested that the present committee should remain as it is and put the matter to a vote.

In view of the resultant impasse in the efforts to form a new Executive Committee, the PNC agreed to extend the term of the incumbent committee. This includes nine independents, two from Fatah, and one of each from As-Sa'iqah, the DPFLP, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command [PFLP-GC] and the Arab Liberation Front [ALF].

Despite this compromise, which excluded the PFLP from the Executive Committee, a feeling of frustration prevailed. A PNC member said sadly: What is the use of agreeing at the meeting on an extremely important political program and not agreeing on the officials who are supposed to implement this program?

A PFLP spokesman said: We have always tried to introduce radical changes in the PLO command. If we failed this time it does not mean that we will give up our attempts and efforts to this end.

An independent member said: Let us be optimistic. It is unreasonable that we should disagree at a stage when the Palestinian revolution is facing the most dangerous and ferocious plots.

Another member wondered how national unity can be achieved while the PFLP is excluded from Executive Committee membership.

A DPFLP spokesman accused the Fatah movement of refusing all other proposals probably because it is afraid that its domination of the Executive Committee would be weakened. He said: All the efforts to get the PFLP represented on the Executive Committee have failed.

Fatah Executive Committee member Hani al-Hasan held a press conference at which he rejected all accusations of "dictatorship" against the Fatah movement. He said that he too was hoping that the PFLP would return to the Executive Committee but the matter needs further consultations.

Al-Hasan described these accusations as unobjective and undemocratic. He said: It is true that Fatah has a majority on the PNC, but that does not mean that we are dictators.

He stressed that the Fatah movement indeed wants the PFLP to return to the PLO command but, unfortunately, all the formulas we proposed to reform the Executive Committee failed to obtain the necessary majority of votes.

Al-Hasan said talks will shortly be held in Beirut to discuss the subject and expressed the belief that the PFLP will be represented on the Executive Committee within 3 months.

Qaddumi on PNC Meetings

JN280715 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0545 GMT 29 Jan 79 JN

[Interview granted by Faruq Qaddumi--Abu al-Lutf--head of the PLO Political Department, to the correspondent of VOP radio on the results of the 14th session of the PNC held in Damascus; date not specified--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Brother Abu al-Lutf, in your opinion what are the main positive results of the PNC's recent session? How do you evaluate these results?

[Answer] Through the convening of the PNC, the PLO was able to achieve many results and carry out many tasks which have to be carried out through the PNC. First among these tasks was the project of national unity. Agreement was reached on the issue of national unity and also on the program of political action. Agreement was complete and unanimous. Committees were formed which approved all the recommendations presented to the PNC. The PNC approved these recommendations.

With reference to financial issues and the new arrangements and new budget, there was an arrangement to give some money to various organizations. There were also other issues. We might say that the other issues, such as the problem of accomodating two more organizations, were postponed unanimously by all the organizations and resistance groups until the next session. However, two persons from each group shall join the PLO Central Council and the PNC. We have solved the problem. All political directions have been united.

The council discussed all issues on the agenda. It discussed the political settlement, and the comprehensive political report was welcomed by all the PNC members and all the resistance groups. Financial reports and other reports were also accepted. All these issues were welcomed by the PNC members and were accepted on all levels. These are our achievements, the things on which we reached national agreement.

[Question] Can you tell us why a new PLO Executive Committee was not elected during the session, unlike previous sessions?

[Answer] It was not necessary to elect a new Executive Committee. Every ordinary session of the PNC has three meetings. When the period of the session, which is 3 years, is over, an Executive Committee will have been elected and the former committee will have to resign. This is not actually required unless there is a test of strength in the council. There was no such thing during the session and the Executive Committee had the vote of confidence and remained in office.

We aspired to include the PFLP on the committee but there were reasons which forced the postponement of the PFLP's entry until next year. This is natural. What is important is to have agreement on the political program, the national unity program, and financial affairs. Agreement was reached on these points. Agreement was also reached on the legitimacy of organizations, namely, the Popular Struggle Front and the Palestine Liberation Front. It was agreed that this issue will be referred to the Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council to take the appropriate decision to include them as groups and not individuals to the PLO Central Council. This issue will be discussed in the first meeting of the PLO Central Council.

[Question] Concerning the approval of the political and organizational program, what are your views on the future of Palestinian action, in other words, the issue of national unity?

[Anwer] We aspire to the highest level of national unity. We aspire to unity of all our institutions on the social, cultural, military, information and financial levels. This is the highest form of national unity. We must gradually proceed to unify such institutions so as not to hurt anybody's feelings. There is the National Fund for example. It will be responsible for receiving funds and dispensing them. There will be accountants to supervise the process.

There is military unity to which we aspire. This unity must also be forged gradually in order to dispel the fears of some people that unity is a process of annexation and containment. Undoubtedly, we are tackling these issues with quiet patience. We take into account the factor of trust among all of us. The activities of all the resistance groups are very important. We have gone a long way in achieving national unity and have taken decisions to unify these institutions. The National Fund will be responsible for the spending of these institutions through a special system and in whatever way convenient to the fund.

Therefore, military unity is the latest stage to which we aspire. There can be (?tactics); for each there might be a certain political tactic. But there must be unified training, a unified supply and unified financing. There must be unified leadership. Unification of all the institutions is our aspiration. The decision is a basic factor, and then we must begin applying it.

[Question] Many people have high expectations for the New Year. Do you? What are our basic tasks on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels to confront these events?

[Answer] This is a good question, especially on how to face the challenges. First, we truly expect a New Year full of events. Undoubtedly the events of the Iranian revolution are part of this and have positive repercussions on the Palestinian struggle and the general Arab struggle and also on the struggle of the international liberation movements. Hence, we can say that the Middle East is directly affected by what is taking place in Iran. We expect complete victory for this revolution. There are still plots by U.S. imperialism and by As-Sadat to destroy this revolution, but we are completely confident that the Iranian revolution will emerge victorious.

There are other expectations. We expect the conclusion of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. The results of this event will be negative as far as the Arab nation is concerned. Pressure will be lifted and battles will be increased. There will be increasing concern. The signing of this treaty will make the situation in the region tense and will lead to a new war. We also see repeated attacks by Israel on southern Lebanon and the shelling of the Lebanese and the Palestinian people in an unprecedented manner, which has already resulted in carrying the issue to the Security Council for an appropriate stand and denunciation of such Israeli actions.

Israel will surely plot and the United States will continue its plots and will attempt new forms of settlement if the treaty with Egypt is signed. If, on the other hand, there is a retreat from signing the treaty there will be new considerations. We of course do not expect this to happen. We must face all these events firmly.

This comes through the strength and cohesion of our national unity. We have advanced on the path of national unity. Our steps can be great steps on the path of national unity and its strengthening on the political as well as the military and other levels.

We must say that we are moving in this direction inside the occupied territories. We must increase our action and deepen it in the occupied territories. We are determined to do that, because Zionism knows only this language. Hence, the confrontation inside the occupied territories on the military, political and mass levels is also increasing. The Baghdad summit conference offered a good opportunity for the solidarity of the Arabs and has stood firmly in the face of the plots and results of the Camp David conference. This Arab solidarity and cohesion must be strengthened. We must strengthen the basic forces of Arab steadfastness and increase its solidarity. The rapprochement and strengthened cohesion between Syria and Iraq is a factor of confrontation.

We would like to reaffirm the importance of solidarity among the confrontation and steadfastness forces such as Algeria, Libya, the PDRY, Syria and Iraq. We must also keep Jordan outside the framework of the political settlement. We must find for ourselves more political footholds in Jordan which will increase our assistance to our brothers inside the occupied territories and offer all means to promote their political struggle and military action inside the occupied territories.

On the international level, we will have international activities in Europe, telling them that we really expect harm to be done to European interests and that the United States is working to harm European interests, as with Iran, because what is going on in Iran is more harmful to European interests than it is to U.S. interests, despite the fact that it is a blow to the U.S. presence in the region. The European states must take a firmer and more challenging stand toward Israel, which is the cause of all the trouble in the region.

We will exert all our efforts to forge national detente and solidarity with the Lebanese National Movement and to create all the circumstances and conditions which will preserve stability, sovereignty and national unity and to protect it against Zionist invasion. We will cooperate with all sincere Lebanese nationalists to achieve this.

These are our future expectations and we hope to succeed in our efforts.

[Question] Thank you brother Abu al-Lutf.

VOP REPORTS MAXIMUM ALERT AMONG 'JOINT FORCES' IN LEBANON

JN290718 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 0530 GMT 29 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The Zionist enemy yesterday afternoon began intensive naval and air activities in southern Lebanon. Enemy gunboats were seen off Tyre, Al-Qasimiyah, Abu al-Aswad, As-Sarafand and Tapline. At the same time, enemy planes intensified their flights over the towns of Tyre and An-Nabatiyah. The joint forces have been placed on maximum alert in the event of Zionist aggression.

'ARAFAT PRESIDES OVER PALESTINIAN MILITARY COUNCIL IN BEIRUT

JN290719 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 0530 GMT 29 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu 'Ammar yesterday presided over a meeting of the general Military Council of the Al-'Asifah forces in Beirut. The meeting was attended by Abu Jihad and Abu Salih, members of the Fatah Central Committee and the Al-'Asifah General Command; and Staff Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil, director of central operations.

The meeting discussed the military situation in southern Lebanon and reviewed the current situation.

'ARAFAT ATTENDS LEBANESE CP CELEBRATION, GIVES SPEECH

JN290817 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 0530 GMT 29 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] A simple celebration was held at the Lebanese communist offices yesterday, marking the 20th anniversary of the Lebanese paper AN-NIDA'. The celebration was attended by Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department; Abu Iyad and Abu Salih, members of the Fatah Central Committee; the secretaries general of the various Palestinian resistance groups; members of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement; Riyad Taha, dean of the Lebanese press syndicate; ambassadors of the Arab countries and the Socialist Bloc countries headed by the Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Aleksandr Soldatov; the representative of the Soviet Communist Party paper PRAVDA, and Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, chief editor of the PLO central paper FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH.

At the outset of the celebration, Comrade George Hawi, member of the party Politburo, welcomed Abu 'Ammar and the brother guests and stressed the cohesion between the Lebanese and the Palestinians. Abu 'Ammar delivered a speech on the occasion in which he thanked Comrade Nicola Shawi, the secretary general of the party, for deciding with his party comrades to hold a smaller celebration on this occasion in deference to their comrade martyr Abu Hasan. Abu 'Ammar said: This gesture is a genuine expression of the fact that we stand together in one trench in this area against the common enemy--imperialism, Zionism and their agents in the area headed by the United States, which wants this area in its zone of influence.

Abu 'Ammar added: All of us--the Lebanese, Palestinian and Arab leaders--say no to imperialism, no to Zionism and no to the United States in the area. But we say yes to progress and the unity of Arab ranks as demonstrated by the heroic Lebanese people, the struggler Palestinian people, the brave Arab nation and the Iranian people, who share this region with our Arab nation.

Abu 'Ammar continued: We are comrades on a long path, a path which will lead to the triumph of the nationalist, progressive and democratic forces of the Arab nation against their enemies the imperialist-Zionist alliance and its agents in the Arab region. Despite the intensive attack on us in southern Lebanon and this savage onslaught represented by the assassination of martyr Abu Hasan--this onslaught which is trying to uproot us from the area--the enemy will fail and the march will forge ahead and triumph, God willing.

Concluding his speech, Abu 'Ammar said: I would like to announce before the representatives of the USSR and our friends in the socialist bloc that this Lebanese revolutionary hotbed will be a source of strength for our Arab nation, the progressive and democratic movement and for all freedom-loving and honorable people in the whole world. The newspaper AN-NIDA' has always defended the Palestinian revolution, in its most difficult days.

YEMEN--PDRY

ISMA'IL MAKES STATEMENT BEFORE GOING TO LIBYA

LD271512 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Summary] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, left Aden for Libya this morning.

"In a statement shortly before departure, brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il said his visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah was at the invitation of brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the Arab People's Congress. It comes at a time when our Arab nation and our liberation movement is exposed to very grave threats as a result of the onslaught of imperialism and Zionism, in alliance with other reactionary forces, and, in particular, as a result of the signing by the Egyptian regime of the capitulatory Camp David accords."

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI NEWSPAPER

JN270753 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jan 79 JN

[Interview granted by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, published on 25 January--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Mr President, at one time Iran constituted an element of the traditional balance of power in the region's security. Do you believe that there has been or will be an imbalance in the region? And what are the dangers threatening the states in the Arabian Peninsula and the gulf, especially since many people are speaking about the future threats to the region?

Answer: Undoubtedly, in the eyes of the big powers Iran was once an element of the traditional power balance in the region's security. The Arab states did not agree with Iran in its claim that the gulf is Persian. To say now that what occurred in Iran has disturbed the regional power balance would be premature. We must wait until issues are clear and until the new government's thinking and direction are defined. It may be that this imbalance will occur in the future, but it also might not occur, for no one knows what the future will bring. In my opinion, the region will be exposed to both foreseen and unforeseen developments as long as the states of the region, and the Arab states generally, remain divided on a unified strategy of action. This strategy is necessary, provided it is based on rejection of any great power's tutelage and on preserving the Arab character of the region. It should preserve the region's independence and work to achieve its people's aspirations.

Question: It is believed that the recent changes are due to the stands of the big powers and that there has been a Soviet rush to the region due to U.S. complacency. Therefore, the states in the Arabian Peninsula and the gulf have been exposed to threats. Do you think that the winds of change will affect the YAR in some way?

Answer: We do not think so because the strength of our position is based upon the confidence placed in us by our people and upon the people's appreciation of our country's achievements.

Our people understand the gravity of international power politics and they share our view that our country should remain free of either of the two superpowers. I do not think that the recent changes will cause rapid reactions in the big powers' stands. Of course, it would be wrong to deny that changes have been brought about by these events. The events in Afghanistan and Iran have caused an awakening of the people in the region.

Question: Do you now find any justification for a meeting of the peninsula and gulf states to deal with the current or coming changes?

Answer: We have repeatedly called for such a meeting. This was prior to the Iranian events and even before the Afghanistani events and the differences with the fascist regime in Aden. However, the brothers in the region were not responsive. Now that these things have happened, it is necessary to meet in order to develop a strategy of action that will keep the region free of the game of international power politics and foreign interference. This strategy will insure the states' independence and the achievement of the aspirations of both their people and the entire Arab peoples. Without this we cannot face the big power interference in the region.

Question: There have been cooperative relations between the YAR and Iran, including the exchange of delegations and military expertise. Has this cooperation been affected?

Answer: There have been friendly relations between our country and Iran. These relations will continue, regardless of the Iranian changes. The cooperation to which you referred did not really exist; the only cooperation between the two countries involved sending some YAR students to Iranian institutes for study.

Question: As far as Bab el Mandeb is concerned, one political theory suggests that the major anticipated regional crises might emerge primarily over the waterways, particularly Bab el Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz. Do you see these issues from this point of view? And what are the necessary preparations to confront any contingencies regarding Bab el Mandeb?

Answer: This might or might not happen. It depends on the capability of the area's countries--I mean here the Arab countries--to adopt unified stands and action. For our part, our principled and firm stands, which I have previously pointed out, have not changed. They are summed up in our eagerness to preserve the Red Sea zone and all the waterways in the Arabian Peninsula and the gulf as zones of security and peace in order to prevent their domination by any superpower. As regards the necessary preparations to confront any contingencies concerning Bab el Mandeb, I can say that our people will never give up their rights in and sovereignty over it. Our people will do their utmost to defend their rights and our Arab brothers should support us in this.

Question: It has been repeated that there is an old Saudi plan to finance the establishment of a Yemeni military base near Bab el Mandeb. How far has this plan gone? And do you deem it imperative, for the time being, to take collective action concerning Bab el Mandeb or the security of the Red Sea, either by following up the Ta'izz conference or within a more comprehensive framework?

Answer: What you are saying is baseless. Nevertheless, we have not forgotten the kingdom's constant support and its responsive actions in meeting our demands.

Question: It has been repeated in certain circles that U.S. arms, including F-5 fighters, have recently been received by the YAR. Does this constitute a deliberate diversification of military resources and in what way has this deal been financed?

Answer: Our eagerness to diversify our military resources stems from our desire not to rely on a certain side. However, our current acquisition of U.S. arms is limited and we have not received what we really need from the United States. Nevertheless, we have received arms from the Soviet Union, and have also received some arms from the United States.

Question: It has also been reiterated that a squadron of Egyptian fighers arrived recently in the YAR to be stationed here. How true are these reports? And is this connected with a possible confrontation with Israel [words indistinct]?

Answer: This is absolutely false. We are not so weak as to require Egyptian fighters in our country. This is part of the rumors propagated by our enemies, the enemies of all Yemen.

Question: In light of regional and international changes, do you still believe that the policy of (?detente) can serve as the best example in Yemeni interests? And what is the nature of the active political move you have recently made in your contacts with the Arab countries?

Answer: Yes, I believe so. At present, the right means subservience to the West and the left means subservience to the East. We are connected with neither of them nor do we belong to either bloc. This is because we proceed from national and pan-Arab allegiance and from our faith in Islam. We work to preserve our ingenuity in modernizing our country. Our recent political move and contacts with the fraternal Arab countries are intended to strengthen our ties with these countries. We also tried, through our contacts, to stress the need for reactivating Arab solidarity on clear bases intended to preserve Arab rights, foremost of which are the Palestinian rights and the nonrelinguishment of any of these rights.

Question: (?Different) statements were issued prior to and after the Baghdad summit concerning the YAR stand toward the Camp David summit and the Egyptian-Israeli talks. What is your real stand?

Answer: We did not approve of the Camp David agreement. However, we reject any trend to isolate Egypt. This is due to Egypt's human, cultural and strategic importance. Several fraternal countries share our views. I hope that our stand on this issue is clear, because the hireling regime in Aden is trying to distort it.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET DELEGATION

JN272114 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj today received the Soviet delegation currently visiting the YAR under Oleg Grinevskiy, chief of the Middle Eastern Countries Department at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is heading the delegation of senior Soviet Foreign Ministry officials.

During the meeting, relations between the two friendly countries, topics of joint interest and Middle East issues were reviewed.

CABINET ISSUES STATEMENT ON TALKS WITH ATHERTON

NC261440 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 26 Jan 79 NC

[Egyptian Cabinet statement issued 26 January]

[Text] Cairo, 26 January--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil met at noon today with the U.S. delegation led by Mr Alfred Atherton. The delegation includes U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts and legal adviser Herbert Hansell.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz.

The U.S. delegation presented the results of its contacts with the Israeli side on the Egyptian-Israeli draft peace treaty. These contacts were limited to a discussion of some articles of the draft treaty.

Article IV, which relates to security arrangements, was discussed. During the discussions, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil explained Egypt's position that the security arrangements should be revised without delay at some specific time after the treaty was signed.

The discussions also covered Article VI, which deals with both sides' commitments under the treaty. The prime minister explained Egypt's commitment to the treaties and agreements concluded with the Arab states, especially the Arab collective security pact, noting therefore, that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty does not get any preference or priority over any other treaty or agreement.

Dr Mustafa Khalil affirmed that Egypt's aim is to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and that Egypt has not changed its course in this regard.

Dr Mustafa Khalil also referred to the extremely important political situations in the Middle East in light of the international political developments.

Mr Alfred Atherton spoke after the meeting. He said: I wish to thank Dr Mustafa Khalil deeply for giving us some of his time for these talks. This was an opportunity for me to review with his excellency the efforts Mr Hansell and I made on this trip, discuss the results of our talks in Israel and also hear the Egyptian Government's viewpoint from the prime minister. I will convey to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance what the prime minister said today. I can also say that we will hold another meeting at 1000 tomorrow.

In reply to correspondents' questions, Dr Mustafa Khalil denied that Egypt will submit a plan to Ambassador Atherton. He said that these [words indistinct] at present.

Asked whether a stage has been reached in which specific Egyptian proposals would be submitted, Dr Mustafa Khalik said: No. No Egyptian views have been submitted since the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Egypt and his meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah.

He added: What we are doing now is discussing the issues raised by Mr Atherton and his efforts to reach a solution to some of the problems.

Asked whether any sign had emerged from what Mr Atherton brought with him regarding the achievement of some progress, Dr Khalil said: This question is premature at this point. What we have actually done is discuss our position and acquaint ourselves with his efforts in Israel. We shall resume our meeting at 1000 tomorrow.

Asked if he would meet with President as-Sadat this evening or before his meeting with Atherton tomorrow morning, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that he would not meet with the president today. He added, But I will report to him on the course of the negotiations.

Answering another question, Dr Khalil denied any knowledge of a meeting between President as-Sadat and Atherton. He said: if President as-Sadat asked for such a meeting, I will of course convey this to Mr Atherton.

Asked if what he has discussed with Atherton so far encourages the possibility of a meeting at a high level--that is, a ministerial level meeting--Dr Mustafa Khalil reaffirmed that Egypt's desire for peace had not changed and that the peace must be just. He added: We reviewed our positions, which are now very clear to Mr Atherton; they have been explained by President Anwar as-Sadat and in our statements.

Replying to another question, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that during his meeting with Atherton he held talks regarding Articles IV and VI of the draft peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

In reply to a question the prime minister denied that during the meeting they discussed the reformulation of anything. He said: We are discussing two viewpoints, and we did not discuss reformulation or anything like that.

Asked whether he thought the Israelis were as eager for peace as Egypt, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: I hope they are as eager for peace as we are.

Second Round of Talks Begin

NC270926 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 January--The second round of talks between Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and U.S. roving envoy Alfred Atherton began at the Cabinet offices at 1000 today. This round will complete the discussions started yesterday.

The discussions were attended on the Egyptian side by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Ambassador 'Ala-Khayrat and legal adviser Sami al-Masri. The discussions were attended on the U.S. side by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts, legal adviser Herbert Hansell and one of Atherton's aides, David Korn.

Dr Mustafa Khalil received Atherton in his office before the discussions started. This meeting lasted 10 minutes.

An official spokesman at the prime minister's office has said that both sides exchanged views on subjects related to the provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty.

The Egyptian side concentrated on the need for a comprehensive peace according to the provisions of the Camp David documents and stressed that the establishment of peace is the strongest guarantee for achieving stability in the area.

Atherton will convey the Egyptian views to the Israeli side this afternoon.

MENA has learned that Dr Mustafa Khalil submitted a report today to President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat on the results of his talks with Atherton.

Alfred Atherton: We had the opportunity this morning to discuss once more and somewhat briefly most of the subjects we discussed yesterday, when we actually had an exhausting discussion. There was no need to discuss more details this morning. We continued to discuss the same questions we discussed yesterday. Really, I do not believe that I can add anything more to the comprehensive statement I made after our meeting yesterday. I say in advance that I absolutely do not wish to go into the substance of our discussions. Atherton added: I shall return to Israel this afternoon. After that, I shall go briefly to Washington to submit a report to the U.S. secretary of state. I do not wish to go into clear general comments on these questions before I have the opportunity to submit a report in Washington.

I would like to express once more my deep gratitude to the Egyptian prime minister on behalf of all my colleagues for the time and help he and his colleagues gave us during the discussions.

Question: Would you say that there is still a gap between the Egyptian and Israeli views?

Atherton: There is still a gap. I believe that it is only fair to say this without revealing any secrets.

Question: Are you taking anything new with you to Israel?

Atherton: I said at the beginning that I shall not go any further into the substance of the discussions. I said earlier that the discussions were extremely useful.

Question: Can you tell us if any progress has been made since U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was in Cairo in December?

Atherton: In fact I believe it is premature to use the terms progress or lack of progress. We are in the midst of a process in which we are attempting to find solutions to the outstanding questions, beginning with the questions directly related to the draft peace treaty. Our aim is to find a basis for the resumption of the talks on the ministerial level. I said this at the beginning of my trip, as did the U.S. State Department. The aim is still the same. Apart from this, I really cannot say anything else.

Question: What you are saying now, Mr Atherton, seems different from what you said when you left Israel--that most, but not all, issues have been resolved.

Atherton: I was referring to a very specific issue dealing with Paragraph Five of Article VI when I was leaving Israel. In that respect I was referring to some bilateral issues between us and the Israelis that I was discussing, which deal with Paragraph Five of Article VI. I believe I said then and I can also say now that the Israelis have raised certain questions about our legal memorandum concerning Paragraph Five of Article VI. We are trying to answer these questions on these specific issues in a bilateral framework. We have resolved a number of issues, but not all of them.

Afterward, Dr Mustafa Khalil answered questions by journalists.

The following is the text of the questions and answers:

Question: Are you pleased with your talks today with Mr Atherton?

Khalil: Certainly, yes. The discussions, as Mr Atherton has said, were extremely useful. We exchanged views. Mr Atherton was well acquainted with our view. We affirmed that Egypt is ready to sign a comprehensive peace agreement. We also adhere to the Camp David framework and are committed to the establishment of peace in the Middle East. We also believe that the establishment of peace in the Middle East is a matter of great importance for the parties involved in the crisis.

Question: AL-JUMHURIYAH reported this morning that the Israelis have proposed nothing new. Do you agree that this describes the true situation?

Khalil: Well, as Mr Atherton has said, it is better not to comment on the substance of the talks. Mr Atherton will convey our views. I will not comment on any statement in this respect.

Question: The newspaper has quoted official sources as saying this:

Khalil: I will not comment on any statement about this.

Question: The newspaper has quoted official sources as saying that the Israeli stand contains nothing new.

Khalil: On our part we have not made any statement.

Question: Atherton has just said that there is a gap. Do you believe a conference on the ministerial level to bridge this gap is needed, and have you asked for such a conference?

Khalil: Well, in my mesage to Cyrus Vance we said we were ready to resume the talks on any level in order to find a solution. In my opinion these gaps are not unbridgeable. There are differences in viewpoints. We do not deny this and it is our view that these differences can be resolved.

Question: How?

Khalil: This is the subject of the talks.

Atherton Leaves Egypt for Israel

NC271148 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 27 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 January--U.S. roving envoy in the Middle East Alfred Atherton left Cairo for Israel at noon today.

He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador 'Ala-Khayrat, director of the office of the minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, and U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts.

Atherton arrived in Cairo Thursday morning in the course of the contacts that the United States is conducting between Egypt and Israel to resume the negotiating process.

Observers See 'No Progress'

NC271615 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 27 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 January--MENA has learned that the Egyptian officials have reaffirmed to Alfred Atherton, the U.S. roving ambassador to the Middle East, that Egypt adheres to its principled stand regarding a comprehensive solution to the Middle East question and that Egypt will never retreat from its position, which stems from its Arabism and its pan-Arab responsibilities and is based on the fact that Egypt's Arab commitments are above any other commitment or agreement.

Egypt has also expressed its readiness to attend any meeting to be held at ministerial or other level between the three parties--Egypt, the United States and Israel--to overcome the difficulties that the peace efforts are encountering.

MENA has learned that the Egyptian officials have affirmed to Alfred Atherton that Egypt is determined to maintain the negotiations and continue the peace efforts for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution in the Middle East that will guarantee the rights of the Arabs and the Palestinians. The Egyptian officials also affirmed to Atherton that Egypt, within the framework of its principles, will maintain its contacts with its Arab brothers for the sake of the overall Arab interest.

MENA has also learned that Egypt has reaffirmed to Mr Atherton that it adheres to its stand on Article IV of the Egyptian-Israeli draft peace treaty related to the revision of the Sinai security arrangements and on Paragraph Five of Article VI.

Egypt affirmed its position on Article IV. This position is based on the need for a commitment to review the security arrangements after 6 years, even if neither side requests this while reserving the right of each party to review these arrangements at any time during the 6 years. After the 6 years, both sides will be committed to a review that is aimed at linking this important point with the period for transition to autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

MENA has learned that the Israeli side refuses to set any date for reviewing the security arrangements.

In relation to paragraph two of Article VI, MENA has learned that Egypt has asked that this paragraph be interpreted on the basis of the Camp David agreement and within the framework of a comprehensive solution. However, Israel still rejects this.

In relation to paragraph five of Article VI, Egypt has affirmed that it accepts no definition of aggression other than its own, and that this subject is related to the core of Egypt's sovereignty.

Egypt believes that the provisions of both articles must be linked to the process of linkage between the peace agreement in Sinai and the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

It is known that Atherton's mission was confined to discussing the problems related to Articles IV and VI and not to the questions of linkage, oil, autonomy or diplomatic representation--questions that constitute 95 percent of the problem. Observers believe that in light of the Israeli arrogance, the latest contacts have achieved no progress.

AL-AKHBAR on Atherton Talks

NC280751 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--AL-AKHBAR comments on the statements made by U.S. roving Ambassador in the Middle East Alfred Atherton in which he said that some problems still remain between Israel and the United States over certain points.

The paper says: The U.S. envoy has not made much progress in his mission so far and has been unable to remove the recent stalemate in the talks. The reason is the trouble he had with the Israeli officials as a result of a vicious cycle of futile maneuvers. He held about 20 meetings with Israeli officials over 14 days without achieving specific results that he could bring to Cairo, so he finally brought everything he heard from the Israelis.

AL-AKHBAR adds: In Cairo, Atherton did not find any maneuvering or labyrinths. What he heard was Egypt's view, which has not changed and never will change, confirming adherence to Egypt's Arab commitments and insistence on the main goal of achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The paper says it believes that the Atherton mission is not the end of the road, since its aim was to explore the views on the unresolved issues. It adds that Atherton's mission must prompt a stronger move and a decisive stand. It may be a long time before such a decisive stand materializes, before the Israelis exhaust all their maneuvers and before the United States settles its differences with Israel over certain points that have recently been left pending. However, the decisive stand is bound to come.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that 1979 must be the year of decision in the Middle East and in the whole world, as President as-Sadat said. However long it takes, the fact remains that Egypt's position, which it declared to the whole world, upholding its Arab commitments and insisting on a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, will never change.

Radio On Talks

NC281533 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "The Only Definite Result of Atherton's Mission"]

[Text] U.S. special envoy to the Middle East Alfred Atherton's talks in Israel, where he returned yesterday from Egypt, were not expected to change the view expressed by all parties that Atherton's mission has failed to achieve its main objective. The purpose of Atherton's latest tour was to create an understanding between Egypt and Israel over Articles IV and VI of the draft peace treaty, thus making it possible to resume the tripartite peace talks at ministerial level.

Confirming the responsibility of the Israeli side for the failure of Atherton's mission does not require much effort. Atherton's failure this time is one of several U.S. diplomatic efforts that have failed to budge the Israeli policy from the point at which the peace talks are deadlocked.

Therefore, Israel's position is almost as it was when the Blair House talks ended and during U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's talks in the last half of December.

Why has the demand been placed on Israel, not Egypt, to change its position? This is because Israel's hardline position on the outstanding issues that have so far prevented the signing of the peace agreement is not based on any reasonable legal or political justification.

One can assume at times that the present Israeli position includes a deliberate desire to hinder the peace efforts. If we temporarily exclude the Egyptian-Israeli conflict on the revision of the security arrangements in Sinai and the level of diplomatic representation between them before the complete withdrawal, we find that the major differences revolve around a specific question: Will the Egyptian-Israeli settlement be separate or merely a first step toward a comprehensive settlement of all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Israel's insistence on refusing to accept the linkage between the agreement with Egypt and the arrangements for the establishing of Palestinian autonomy, and on demanding that Egypt give priority and preference to the agreement over its Arab commitments and responsibility, is nothing but an application of the principle of separate settlement, which Israel prefers to conclude with Egypt.

The Israeli position can never be accepted. It will not lead to the desired peace and stability in the area. It shows that Israel views peace only from its narrow and illegal interests.

Therefore, if this was the position Atherton inferred from the Israeli negotiators--if this is what actually happened--then it was inevitable for Atherton's mission to have the same result as Vance's: failure to reach a minimum understanding that enables the negotiations to be resumed and assures their success. This opens the door for many questions on the next step by U.S. diplomacy over this Israeli arrogance.

There is no doubt that U.S. policymakers have alternatives for handling the situation. We must wait and see which alternative they choose.

AS-SIYASI: ISRAELI CALL FOR SUMMIT WITH EGYPT REJECTED

NC280825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0758 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--AS-SIYASI says today that Egypt has rejected Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's proposal calling for an Egyptian-Israeli bilateral summit conference excluding the United States because:

1. Israel has rejected what was previously agreed upon at Camp David.

2. Egypt considers the United States a full partner in all the talks, and it is unreasonable for the United States to abandon any future negotiations.

3. Cairo believes that U.S. President Carter must seek to commit Israel to respect what was agreed upon before, and that unless this happens Egypt (?will not) encourage the convening of any summit conference, whether bilateral or tripartite.

The paper says that Egypt accepted the principle of direct negotiations with Israel at the insistence of the international community on various occasions. When Israel resorted to its procedural maneuvering at the Geneva conference, President as-Sadat decided to (?disregard it) and launch his peace initiative by visiting Jerusalem. The paper adds that the Camp David conference, where the United States assumed its responsibilities, was the culmination of these efforts. This is why it is inconsceivable now to return to steps that have already been overtaken.

CARTER TO VISIT CAIRO BEFORE END OF MARCH

NC280700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0643 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--ROSE AL-YUSUF says that U.S. President and Mrs Jimmy Carter will visit Cairo on their next trip to the Middle East.

The magazine says these sources [as received] also confirmed that this visit will take place before the end of March, after a preparatory summit conference to be held in Washington in February.

ROSE AL-YUSUF also says that President Carter's tour of the Middle East is expected to include Israel, Saudi Arabia and perhaps Jordan.

DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS NORTHERN MILITARY DISTRICT

NC271650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 27 January--Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, minister of defense and war production, has said that the plan for developing all branches of the armed forces is being implemented. The aim of the plan is to maintain the combat capability of the armed forces so that they will remain strong and capable of protecting peace and repulsing any aggression on our eastern, western or southern borders. He also said that Egypt's southern borders are Sudan's. This is because the Nile passes through Sudan and Egypt and both countries are linked by joint defense agreements.

At his meeting today with the commanders, officers and soldiers of the Northern Military District, the defense minister said that the U.S. F-5 aircraft deal, which the U.S. Congress has approved, will be signed soon so that the first consignment of planes will arrive and the other consignments will follow successively. He also said that this deal falls within the framework of President Anwar as-Sadat's decision to diversify the sources of weapons.

The defense minister also announced that a batch of Crotale missiles from France were delivered to the air defense forces today. A number of modern and very advanced tanks will also arrive soon and will be put at the disposal of the armed forces. This is in addition to the arms deals concluded between the Arab Industrialization Organization and France and England. Under these deals, the Alpha jet trainer and the Lynx helicopter will be manufactured in Egypt.

The defense minister noted that within the framework of the policy of diversifying the sources of weapons the naval forces have been equipped with modern naval equipment. Mirage jets and Gazelle helicopters have been placed at the disposal of the air force, and antisubmarine helicopters have been allocated to the navy.

The meeting, held at the headquarters of the Northern Military District, was attended by Maj Gen Muhammad Nabih, commander of the naval forces, commanders, officers and men.

Speaking about the current po'itical situation and the role of the armed forces in the coming stage, the defense minister said that President as-Sadat's initiative and his historic visit to Jerusalem could not have taken place had it not been for the glorious October War, the momentous decision of the president to cross the Suez Canal and the splendid performance of the commanders, officers and men in this glorious war.

He said that in his historic speech at the Israeli Knesset, President as-Sadat outlined the peace principles to which Egypt is committed in accordance with the UN resolutions. These principles emphasize the need for Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 and the granting of their legitimate rights to the Palestinian people.

He pointed out that Egypt's line in the Washington talks was clear: namely, insistence on linkage between the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the establishment of self-rule for the Palestinians.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Israel must understand that peace is in its interest just as it is in the interest of all the peoples of the region.

The defense minister affirmed that Egypt is moving on the way of strengthening its armed forces and supplying them with the most modern weapons following the Soviet embargo on the supply of arms and spare parts to Egypt. He said that the armed forces in any state represent the balance of power that protects the rights of the state and defends it.

Speaking about the role of the armed forces in solving housing and transport problems, the defense minister said that the armed forces are continuing their efforts to overcome such problems by establishing military towns and providing housing and jobs for the fighters as well as contributing to the solution of problems in the civilian sector.

ROSE AL-YUSUF ON ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW MENGISTU REGIME

NC280800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine says that according to the latest reports leaked from Addis Ababa several attempts were made recently to overthrow Mengistu, chairman of the ruling military council. These attempts, it says, were made by the air force, which has a large number of communists in its ranks.

The magazine says that observers coming from Ethiopia confirm that Soviet agents are behind these attempts, and that these agents doubt Mengistu's loyalty to their schemes, especially since he moved against Meisone, the leader of the Leftist party, who sneaked into Ethiopia from his exile with the help of the Cuban charge d'affaires on Moscow's instructions and without the knowledge of the Ethiopian authorities.

AL-BAKR UNABLE TO RECEIVE ENVOY DUE TO 'TIRING HEALTH'

LD282140 Arabat MAP in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] The Moroccan minister of state for information was today received by Dr Hamid 'Alwan, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, to whom he handed a message from Hi Majesty King Hassan II to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. In view of the tiring health condition [lil halat as-sihhiyah al-mut'abah] of the Iraqi president, the latter was unable to receive the envoy of his majesty the king. As for the Iraqi vice president, he is in Damascus to attend the meetings of the higher political authority between Iraq and Syria.

During the 1-hour meeting, which was attended by the Moroccan ambassador in Baghdad, the two ministers reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the gulf. The meeting was characterized by frankness and amity.

AL-BAKR RECEIVES DEPUTY SADDAM HUSAYN 28 JAN

JN281333 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] This morning in his office in the presidential palace, President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, on the occasion of the latter's departure for fraternal Syria.

SADDAM HUSAYN LEAVES BAGHDAD FOR DAMASCUS

JN280911 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0902 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 January--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has left Baghdad for Damascus at the head of an official delegation on a visit of several days to Syria. The vice chairman was accorded an official sendoff in which RCC members, ministers and senior officials participated.

Husayn Statement

JN281424 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 January--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has affirmed that the relationship between Iraq and Syria will be raised to a new qualitative level and that this level must reflect complete unity between the two countries. In a statement made before leaving Baghdad for Damascus today, Saddam Husayn expressed the hope that the meetings of the Higher Political Committee in Damascus will culminate in accomplishing the tasks stipulated in the Charter of Joint National Action. Saddam Husayn announced that the Iraqi and Syrian leaderships have agreed to hold another meeting in Baghdad to discuss the constitutional and political formulas for establishing Iraqi-Syrian unity. He pointed out that the date for this meeting will be agreed upon during the Damascus meetings.

Saddam Husayn emphasized the need to expedite the convocation of this meeting for discussion of these matters. So as to reach the final results, which will be announced to the Arab people and the world public.

Saddam Husayn said that the Iraqi-Syrian Joint National Action Charter furnishes the proper grondwork for achieving unity tasks and building a strong foundation for complete bilateral unity.

Saddam Husayn also said that the announcement of unity between Iraq and Syria must be accompanied by an announcement of unification of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He added: The party must be unified after this long estrangement and this unification must proceed in parallel with the constitutional and political discussion on the form of unity and the announcement of unity.

Saddam Husayn pointed out that the Ba'th Party leadership has initiated every serious attempt at unity in contemporary history, with the exception of certain forms of so-called unity relationships that gave no additional value to unity or to its objectives and application. Saddam Husayn said it was the Ba'th Party that created the unity between Egypt and Syria in 1958. It was also the party's spirit, ideas and leadership--in other words the spirit of unity action--that prompted the 1978 initiative represented by the new relationship between Iraq and Syria.

Saddam Husayn is heading the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Higher Political Committee.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS PLANS FOR UNIFICATION WITH SYRIA

JN282140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Bagdad, 26 January--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of public works and housing, has expressed his optimism at what will be achieved by the Syrian-Iraqi Higher Political Committee and the positive steps that will be adopted on the road to unity between the two countries.

In an interview with the Iraqi information team in Syria which was broadcast on Iraqi television this evening, Ramadan added that his optimism stems from the positive spirit he sensed during the meetings of the four committees and those of the subcommittees of the Higher Political Committee.

Ramadan explained that the discussion dealt with unifying the unionist plans for the armed forces; the political Arab situation, particularly all that is of interest to the Palestinian cause; everything of interest to popular organizations; and scientific terminology in the areas of education and culture.

Ramadan stressed that the meetings of the four delegation heads and those of the subcommittees provide a good opportunity to facilitate the task of the Higher Political Committee.

In another meeting, RCC member and Planning Minister 'Adnan Husayn said that agreement has been reached on repumping Iraqi oil via Syrian pipelines to Baniyas port. Husayn added that agreement has been reached on supplying Syria with enough oil for its local consumption and on providing the eastern part of Syria with liquid gas and Iraqi oil products.

'Adnan Husayn said that important steps have been taken in the field of planning. The most important of these is the establishment of the Iraqi-Syrian Joint Commission for Planning.

The commission will draft the two countries' development plan for 1981-85. The period from now up to the year 1981 has been considered a period of preparation for the plan. The plan will be a unified, integrated development plan for the two countries.

As for trade relations, 'Adnan Husayn said that important accomplishments on this path have been the waiving of customs duties on locally produced commodities and the treatment of each of the two countries' trade centers abroad as a representative of the other country as well. 'Adnan Husayn added that in the field of industry, an important development has taken place. This is represented in the establishment of qualitative commissions for the joint industrial branches, including experts from both countries. The commissions will attempt to achieve an integration of the production branches in the industrial sector as well as the two countries' consumption needs.

'Adnan Husayn asserted that these steps will provide a great advantage for the industrial products, and will aid in achieving economic integration between the two fraternal countries, Iraq and Syria.

ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY SECRETARY PROTESTS DEPORTATION

JN261705 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Dr Fakhri Qadduri, secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council, has lodged a protest memo with the authorities of the Egyptian regime over his deportation from Egypt saying that this measure is not based on legal grounds and violates the immunity enjoyed by the secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council.

Dr Qadduri submitted an official memo yesterday to Arab Leage Secretary General Mahmud Riyad requesting an urgent meeting of the chairmen of the Arab organizations to discuss the consequences of his deportation and adopt measures which will guarantee the immunity of the Arab organizations and their secretaries general in order to avoid the undermining of joint Arab action.

Arrives in Baghdad

JN280903 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 January--Dr Fakhri Qadduri, the secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council, arrived here this morning after being expelled by the As-Sadat authorities. Speaking to INA, Dr Qadduri said the Egyptian decision conflicts with the immunities enjoyed by Arab organization and their personnel. The As-Sadat authorities, he said, did not even observe diplomatic protocol and the provisions of the Arab Economic Unity Council agreement on the subject of his expulsion.

Dr Qadduri said that the Arab Economic Unity Council will hold an extraordinary meeting soon after consultations with the competent ministers to set a date and place for this meeting and to examine the situation resulting from the illegal decision taken by the As-Sadat authorities. Dr Qadduri expressed the hope that the council meeting will find a radical solution to this question to prevent its recurrence in the future for the sake of joint Arab action. Dr Qadduri said he will conduct his work as secretary general outside Egyptian territory until the convocation of the council's extraordinary meeting.

AMMAN REPORTS BRIEF VISIT BY FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT FORD

Arrival in Jordan

JN261625 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Former U.S. President Gerald Ford and Mrs Ford arrived in Amman this afternoon within a tour of the Middle East. They were met by His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur. They were also met by Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and Mrs Sharaf; the court minister; the minister of state for foreign affairs; the interior minister; the acting commander in chief of the armed forces; the U.S. ambassador in Amman and the embassy staff.

The former U.S. president is currently on a tour of the Middle East. He has so far visited Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Oman.

Ford Visits Martyrs Monument

JN271534 Amman JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 27 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 27 January--Former U.S. President Gerald Ford today visited the Martyrs Monument, where he heard a briefing on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces since their establishment. Former President Ford then watered the Tree of Life and wrote a word in the visitors' book expressing his admiration for the high standard the Jordanian Armed Forces have reached.

Former President Ford then visited the Husayn Medical Center, where he heard a briefing from the director of the Royal Medical Corps on the center and its duties and the role it is performing. The former president toured the various sections of the center.

Ford Visits Jordan Valley

JN271935 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jan 79 JN

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan this afternoon accompanied former U.S. President Gerald Ford in a visit to projects being implemented by the Jordan Valley Authority. Former President Ford heard from Crown Prince Hasan an explanation of the development efforts being made by the authority. He also reviewed the economic situation in Jordan.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan explained the impact of the Israeli acts of aggression on the occupied Arab areas represented by the confiscation of Arab lands and establishing settlements on them.

Mrs Betty Ford this morning made a tour of several tourist and cultural sites in the capital. Mrs Ford expressed admiration for the development of these sites and their importance in serving the Jordanian citizen.

Mr and Mrs Ford have left for Aqaba for a visit to that city.

Husayn Receives Ford

JN262026 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 26 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] His majesty the king received at Al-Hashimiyah this evening former U.S. President Gerald Ford, During this meeting, they discussed current international issues and the Middle East situation. The former president heard the latest Jordanian views on these developments. The meeting was attended by the Chief of the Royal Court 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf.

Later in the evening his majesty the king and Queen Nur held a dinner in honor of Mr and Mrs Ford.

Ford Leaves Jordan

JN282036 Amman JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Aqaba, 28 January--Former U.S. President Gerald Ford and his wife left Aqaba at noon today at the end of a 3-day visit to Jordan.

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur were present at Aqaba airport to see their guests off. The U.S. ambassador in Amman was also present at the airport.

PAPERS COMMENT ON FAILURE OF ATHERTON MISSION

JN290756 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0510 GMT 29 Jan 79 JN

[Press review]

[Text] The newspapers AD-DUSTUR and AR-RA'Y discuss in their editorials today the U.S. efforts to bring views closer between Egypt and Israel. The two papers conclude that these efforts cannot materialize into positive results because such efforts do not lead to a comprehensive settlement guaranteeing the establishment of a durable peace in the area.

Under the headline "A Stand Which Needs Courage," AD-DUSTUR writes the following: U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton, as U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance before him, failed to narrow the differences between Egypt and Israel on the proposed draft peace treaty between the two countries.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Despite the reassurances being made by Cairo that the peace treaty is ready for signature and that only 5 percent of the issues remain to be resolved, and this 5 percent, as Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil said, is not impossible to resolve, such talk contradicts facts. The efforts of Ambassador Atherton, Secretary of State Vance, and President Carter have not succeeded in bridging the gap between the stands of Cairo and Tel Aviv. The negotiating process has become a boring theatrical and the participants in this theatrical lack the courage to admit failure and end it.

AD-DUSTUR adds: To simply explain the complexities which have led to the impasse in the Egyptian-Israeli peace momentum, it can be summed up in two points. Israel seeks to achieve a separate peace treaty with Egypt while Egypt seeks to make its peace with Israel a step toward a comprehensive settlement. Furthermore, Israel seeks to isolate Egypt from the Arab arena while Egypt seeks to win over Israel and the Arabs at the same time.

Under the headline "The Peace of the Equally Strong Partners," the newspaper AR-RA'Y writes the following: It seems that the United States does not want to save Israel despite itself as George Ball said in 1977. On the contrary, Israel seeks to involve the U.S. administration in matters which might be no less serious than the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, because the Middle East dispute, whether we like or not, involves oil and nothing else.

AR-RA'Y adds: Despite the losses sustained by Israel as a result of its loss of Iranian oil supplies and the Syrian-Iraqi agreement to rectify the balance of power in the area, Israel still hopes that the U.S. administration will play a more involved role in the area's problems, not only to save Israel's expansionist ambitions but to protect Israel's rear and front in confronting the entire Arab world.

KHOMEYNI'S PERSISTENCE WILL CAUSE 'MILITARY GOVERNMENT'

JN271039 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jan 79 pp 1, 17 JN

[Editorial: "Will the Imam Return or Not"]

[Excerpt] When Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar announces that the return of Imam Khomeyni, reportedly to occur tomorrow, is premature and at the same time resorts to strict implementation of the imposed martial law, bans demonstrations and closes down all Iranian airports, he clearly indicates that he does not favor the religious leader's return. Bakhtiar might even go further and use the army to prevent this return.

Therefore, Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni must either wait in Paris, accepting Bakhtiar's conditions, or land in Iran by parachute. Meanwhile, and until the "imam's return" conflict is solved, scores of youth have fallen victim to the army's bullets, the country's economy is collapsing and the political crisis deteriorates daily, rendering armed confrontation inevitable. Moreover, the banks and all financial organizations are declaring bankruptcy and even the oil is being exhausted to such an extent that Bakhtiar might import oil from the United States.

However, the moderate power base represented by Bakhtiar, after succeeding in expelling the shah, is now trying to expell Khomeyni as well, so that Bakhtiar can quietly rearrange matters in Iran. Bakhtiar wants to do this free of the influence of either the shah or Khomeyni so that he can safely lead his country out of its current, strangling political crisis without resorting to more violence or causing more bloodshed.

On the other hand Khomeyni, following the shah's departure, is now trying to benefit from the "street war" which he sponsored a year ago. In doing this, Khomeyni is disavowing the numerous subsurface political trends in Iran. And although some of those trends did not offer enthusastic support for the shah's continued presence, most of them are not fond of Imam Khomeyni's "Islamic republic."

The imam must realize that the shah's absence does not necessarily mean that he can return to Tehran. Evidence of this is the recent communist rally that openly rejected the "Islamic republic;" this is apart from other demonstrators, who are still raising the shah's pictures, and from the army, which exercises power and is hailing the "absent" shah before the Niaravan Palace.

The blatant truth that floats above the acrimonious debate between Tehran and Paris and is that the army is the only force capable of translating words into action and consequently of doing whatever it wishes. This power supports Bakhtiar and opposes Iman Khomeyni. So if Imam Khomeyni decides to challenge Bakhtiar, it will be the armed forces that he must face. Past experiences have proven that once the army is out of its garrisons it is very hard to tell when it will return.

EMPLOYEES OF IRANIAN EMPLOYEES REPORTEDLY CHANGE SIGN

NC261443 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 26 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, 26 January--A sign bearing the name of the Islamic Republic of Iran instead of the Iranian Imperial Embassy was today posted at the entrance of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

It is believed that the sign was put up by the embassy's employees in the absense of the Iranian ambassador from Beirut.

Meanwhile, 100 men of the Iranian contingent that withdrew from the UNIFIL in southern Lebanon have been unable to leave due to the closure of Iranian airports.

CABINET DISCUSSES RESOLUTION 444, SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC291450 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] At 1220, President Ilyas Sarkis chaired an extraordinary Cabinet meeting in the presence of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and the ministers. Governor of South Lebanon Halim Fayyad attended part of the meeting, which continued until 1340.

After the meeting [Cabinet Secretary] 'Umar Musaykah gave the following information:

The Cabinet devoted today's extraordinary session to discussing the situation in the south and the practical measures that must be taken to implement UN Security Council Resolution 444. The Cabinet listened to the governor of the south, who reported on the general and administrative conditions in the southern province. As a result, it was decided to strengthen the powers of the governor and give him some extraordinary powers so that he can reactivate the general departments, establishments and municipalities in the province. They will then be able to carry out their responsibilities rapidly and in the best possible manner, particularly in meeting the demands of the citizens and insuring various public utilities and services.

AMERICAN, FRENCHMAN ARRESTED IN 'ALI SALAMAH CASE

NC271005 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Two aliens--an American and a Frenchman--were arrested yesterday on suspicion of being connected with the murder of Palestinian leader 'Ali Salamah Abu Hasan and his comrades.

The military public prosecutor, As'ad Jirwanus, has interrogated them, placed them in solitary confinement and instructed the General Security Department to interrogate them on a number of points.

Here are the details:

On 26 January, the Lebanese General Security Department arrested (Donald Wittaker Fisher), of American citizenship, and (Philip Robert Rivaux), of French citizenship. Both are suspected of being linked with the murder of 'Ali Hasan Salamah and his comrades.

It was learned after military public prosecutor As'ad Jirmanus interrogated them that they have a number of passports and are suspected of having visited and stayed in a number of countries in the Middle East.

Investigations are being conducted in strict secrecy on their status; how they entered Lebanese territory; the places they frequented in Lebanon; and the persons with whom they have links.

They have been placed in solitary confinement. The military public prosecutor, As-'ad Jirmanus, has sent a memo to the investigation office of the General Security Department to conduct the necessary investigations.

[Baghdad INA in Arabic at 0958 GMT OW 27 January says that "the Lebanese military prosecution has accused (Peter Skriper) and (Arika Gabers), British, and (Ronald Kolberk), a Canadian, with having participated in assassinating martyr Abu Hasan Salamah, official in charge of special operations. Reporting this today, AS-SAFIR says that the military prosecution has distributed photos of the accused at the border checkpoints and asked responsible authorities to pursue and arrest them. The paper, however, adds that the three defendants have managed to leave the country by sea."]

[Baghdad INA in Arabic at 0825 GMT on 28 January adds that "The Lebanese authorities are contacting the intelligence services and security departments of several Arab and foreign countries via Interpol to obtain further information on the American and the Frenchman detained yesterday on charges of complicity in the murder of Palestinian leader Abu Hasan last Monday."]

VOICE OF LEBANON ON SITUATION IN BEIRUT, SOUTH

NC280646 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Shortly after midnight there were several explosions in the southern suburb and in the heart of the capital. Heavy bursts of fire were also heard. Two people were killed and seven others were wounded in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah areas.

Meanwhile, the WAFA has released a statement saying that a number of Palestinians were seriously wounded in western Beirut in an attack on a PLO center. The agency did not specify the number of casualties. It said that some individuals in a U.S.-made car that was roving the streets opened machinegun fire on one of the centers of the Palestinian revolution commands, woulding a number of fighters, some of them seriously. The Palestinian statement did not give any details about the motives of the attack or about the culprits.

In the south press correspondents have reported that the Norwegian unit's positions near Rashyya al-Fukhkhar in the eastern sector came under heavy artillery fire. There were no casualties. The correspondents say that the firing came from the town of (Tallat ash-Shu'ayrah) and lasted for 4 hours yesterday. The Norwegians did not return the fire. Al-Hasbani and the villages of Rashayya and (As-Sahaman) also came under fire and many civilians were wounded.

SYRIAN-IRAQI HIGHER POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN DAMASCUS

27 Jan Preparatory Meeting

JN271216 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 27 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 27 January--The Iraqi and Syrian sides held a meeting here today in preparation for meetings of the Higher Political Committee, formed as a result of the National Joint Action Charter between Iraq and Syria.

The Iraqi side includes Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of housing and public works; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member; 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and planning minister; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister; the staff general chief of staff of the armed forces; and the Iraqi ambassador in Damascus. The Syrian side includes 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Zuhayr Mashriqah, education minister; Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian armed forces; and Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister.

The two sides reviewed the work achieved to date by the joint committees, which are subordinate to the Higher Political Committee. They also discussed the work program of the higher committee, which will begin its meetings in Damascus at a later date.

Saddam Husayn Arrives

JN281140 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC], arrived at Damascus International Airport at 1130 today to head the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Syrian-Iraqi joint Higher Political Committee. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at the airport.

Mr Saddam Husayn was also received by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, deputy prime ministers, members of the Iraqi delegation to the higher committee meetings, ministers and heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited in Damascus.

President Hafiz al-Asad embraced Saddam Husayn at the plane ramp whereupon they proceeded together to the dais, where the Iraqi and Syrian national anthems were played. The president and the vice chairman then reviewed the honor guard, after which Saddam Husayn shook hands with his well-wishers.

At the end of the reception ceremony, President Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn proceeded in a motorcade to the guest palace where the vice chairman will stay during his visit to Damascus.

'Izzat Ibrahim, member of the RCC and interior minister, and 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, arrived with Mr Saddam Husayn.

Higher Political Committee Convenes

JN281944 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Syrian-Iraqi Higher Political Committee held a meeting at the presidential palace in Damascus at 1600 today.

The Syrian side was headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, and the Iraqi side was headed by Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC]. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, prime minister; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Fahmi al-Yusufi, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense; and Zuhayr Mashariqah, minister of education.

On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member and minister of interior; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and minister of public works and housing; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member; 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and minister of planning; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs; Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, chief of staff; and Walid al-Khashali, Iraq's ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, which was held in a fraternal atmosphere, a discussion was held on the work of the committees emanating from the Joint National Action Charter. A review was also made of the recommendations submitted by these committees. The necessary decisions were made to implement these recommendations. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of achievements to date and on continuing work toward further accomplishments.

Within the framework of establishing the bases of cultural unity between the two fraternal countries, Karim Mahmud Shintaf, Iraqi minister of culture and arts, arrived in Damascus this evening from Baghdad on a visit of several days. He made a statement in which he said that his visit to Damascus is a result of the decisions of the two countries' Joint Political, Information and Cultural Committee.

Al-Asad Hosts Banquet

JN282137 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad hosted a banquet this evening at the Ad-Dimashqiyah Hall in honor of Saddam Husayn, Iraqi Revolution Command Council vice chairman. The banquet was attended by the members of the Iraqi delegation attending the meetings of the Syrian-Iraqi Higher Political Committee and by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, the deputy prime ministers, ministers, several high-ranking officials and the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Damascus.

Al-Asad, Husayn Meet

JN290923 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn held a meeting at 1000 today at the guest palace.

Khaddam on Unity Achievements

JN290806 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that unity between Syria and Iraq is the practical answer to the situation created by As-Sadat's policy.

He said that yesterday's meeting of the Syrian-Iraqi Higher Political Committee in Damascus and the previous meetings of the committees formed under the Charter of Joint National Action have confirmed that through their clear understanding of events and their developments, the leaders of the two countries are determined to proceed to an advanced step in the unity relationship between them and to confront the big conspiracy hatched by Zionism and imperialism to liquidate the Palestine question and the Arab liberation movement.

Khaddam said the meeting of the Higher Political Committee was marked by a deep sense of responsibility for the two countries and their leaders in meeting all the requirements of the coming phase. He said that the meeting reviewed the achievements of the intervening period since the first meeting of the Higher Political Committee in Baghdad. This 3-month period, Khaddam said, was important because it laid the groundwork for building the unity state and creating all the circumstances which help push unity work forward. All discussions were based on the conviction that relations between the two countries must rise to the level of unity.

Khaddam said that relations between Iraq and Syria must not be viewed from the point of quantity but quality, although quantity has a strong bearing on defending Arab rights and backing Arab steadfastness. The qualitative change brought about by the new relations, he said, will form the basis in creating a new situation in the area.

Concluding, Khaddam said: Iraq and Syria are undertaking a major task and a great historical change which no doubt will have far-reaching effects on the area, the Arab unity movement and the liberation movement in the region. They will also have a positive effect on the national liberation movement in the world.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES UNITY PROSPECTS

JN291044 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 29 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 29 January--Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya has declared that "we view with great optimism the anticipated results of the meetings of the Higher Political Committee's second session currently convening in Damascus on the path to the aspired unity between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Iraq."

In a statement published here today, Shayya said that these results reflect the great hopes of the Arab masses not only in Syria and Iraq, but of our Arab nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf as well, since these results will constitute a decisive and absolute reply to the major rupture in the position of Arab steadfastness in the face of Zionism and imperialism as a result of As-Sadat's capitulationist policy and the involvement of the Egyptian regime in the liquidationist plot which it is implementing jointly and in full coordination with Zionism and imperialism.

Speaking about the economic aspect of the unionist action between the two fraternal countries and the achievements accomplished by the Economic Affairs and Technical Cooperation Committee, Shayya said that the current session of the Higher Political Committee will discuss the reports of the other committees and what we have achieved with our Iraqi brethren so far in the economic field in the form of resolutions and recommendations adopted at the first session of the Economic Affairs and Technical Cooperation Committee held in Damascus on 4 January and what has been achieved by the committee for the followup of these resolutions and recommendations.

AL-ASAD PRESIDES OVER NATIONAL FRONT MEETING

JN271703 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jan 79 JN

[Text] At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad presided over the meeting of the central command of the Progressive National Front. During this meeting, the president reviewed the states which have been covered in implementing the Charter of Joint National Action between Syria and Iraq and the work which has been accomplished by the committees in the field of coordination and integration and future unity action. The meeting also reviewed the latest developments in the region.

INFORMATION MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT

JN282115 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad returned to Damascus from Baghdad this evening after participating in the extraordinary meeting of the Arab information ministers concluded in Baghdad today. Prior to his departure from Baghdad, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad made a statement expressing his pleasure at the great success achieved by the conference in reaching a unanimous decision based on the clear and definite political bases charted by the Baghdad summit conference.

Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said: We have formulated a concept that we believe to be realistic and practical for exerting influence on the international circles which we will approach in our information work. By this, we want to emphasize the results of the Baghdad summit conference, particularly the Arab nation's rejection of the Camp David agreements and their results, and to also emphasize that the Arab nation is seeking a just and durable peace. Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad explained that the conference was a good opportunity for dialog among the Arab information brothers.

Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad pointed out that he and Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi reviewed the phases covered on the path of unionist action and the works of the committee that is currently discussing the drafting of the unified law for the two fraternal countries' Information Ministries.

AL-ASAD TO PARTICIPATE IN IRAQI REVOLUTION CELEBRATIONS

JN270635 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jan 79 p 1 JN

[Text] Damascus--Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Iraq on 8 February to participate in Iraq's celebrations of the anniversary of the 14 Ramadan revolution. Al-Asad is due to arrive in Baghdad on the evening of 7 February.

AL-MUSTAQBAL NOTES USSR-SYRIAN DISAGREEMENT OVER ARMS

JN290949 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 27 Jan 79 p 18 JN

[Text] Syrian-Soviet talks have again failed to find a solution for the delivery of advanced Soviet weapons to Syria. It is expected that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Moscow to have summit talks on overall Soviet-Arab relations.

However, this visit will not take place before the convening of the Syrian-Iraqi summit conference when President al-Bakr will visit Damascus.

It will be recalled that another round of talks on this subject took place between Syria and the Soviet Union 2 months ago when Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi visited Moscow at the head of a military delegation following the visit which paved the way for Iraqi Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn.

Syrian circles do not conceal their disappointment over the Soviet Union's reservations regarding certain types of sophisticated weapons, particularly planes and missiles, on the pretext that Iraq has such weapons, that Syria, Iraq and Libya constitute the front of steadfastness and that coordination among them is possible.

WRITER EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PNC RESULTS

JN262023 Damascus ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Jan 79 p 3 JN

["Viewpoint" column by Ahmad Suwwan: "The Most Difficult Question Is, Can We Do What Is Required of Us?"]

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] has concluded its 14th session and has adjourned until the next session. The PLO Executive Committee, which has not undergone any changes in names, figures or representation, continues to lead Palestine national action. But despite the declared resolutions and the minutes of the meetings, almost all of which were held in camera, we are still tempted to ask: Will the next PNC session again discuss the circumstances preventing the achievement of Palestinian unity? Will we be discussing again what is required of us--a formula or formulas eliminating the division, fanaticism and paroxysms among the Palestinian groups and ending disorganized Palestinian action? Will the debate deteriorate to the point of becoming mere talk among council members and between bottom-rank cadres within the Palestinian resistance, where one Palestinian group leader will say one thing and another will say something else? Will the top ranking leaders return to their bilateral and collective meetings to seek arbitration as has been the case on every occasion? Will they support the resolutions of the 14th session of the PNC and then differ in the interpretation and analysis when it comes to implementing them?

These are some of the many questions we are asking now with a lump in our throats, pain in our hearts and with our hands pressed hard on our wounds. The simple reason is that these questions have been raised several times over the past 10 years without the right answers being found for them throughout the long period of struggle, hard work, popular action and heroic resistance in the occupied territory. We have not found the right practical formula that will make every member of the resistance, when speaking about himself, say that he belongs to the resistance and to the PLO, not to this or that group or this or that trend.

Palestinian ambition has always centered on this very point. Struggle Bishop Hilarion Capucci has called for everyone to merge in a unified Palestinian action within the PLO under a unified collective leadership which will have the responsibility of supervising the implementation of decisions not only by members of their own group but also members of the other groups. This cannot be said now of the PLO departments. Let these departments, therefore, turn into a real leadership to supervise every aspect of national and pan-Arab Palestinian action.

The liberation of Jerusalem will not be possible except through organized Palestinian action, and this action will not be effective and revolutionary except through national unity which, alone, will bring us closer to Palestine and to our common objective. But where is the agreement on all the details of the march toward this objective? Where are the institutions which can make decisions and implement them through the only means of implementation; namely, the resistance men at all levels and all the factions of our Palestinian Arab people inside and outside the occupied homeland.

Revolution is action and practice, not discussions, even though these are important and necessary to a point. True, the Palestinian revolution has succeeded through armed and political struggle to cover a lot of ground toward achieving the objective, but there is a great deal yet to be covered. This requires double the efforts which have been exerted so far. The first condition for exerting these efforts is averting sensitivities and political fanaticisms among Palestinian groups. This is because the revolution has room for everyone, and everyone is interested in the continuation of the revolution and in perserving organized Palestinian action and Palestinian national unity. Can we do what is required of us? This is the most difficult question.

ATH-THAWRAH CRITICIZES NUMAYRI'S SUPPORT FOR AS-SADAT

JN281208 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 28 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 28 January--In its column "Opinion" today, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH criticizes Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's statements in which he defended As-Sadat's capitulatory policy and criticized Arab leaders who rejected it.

ATH-THAWRAH says: None of the Arab leaders has said what President Numayri claims. They said the exact opposite, that As-Sadat's policy weakened and undermined Arab solidarity, strengthened Israel's position and weakened the chances for achieving a just peace.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: President Numayri's philosophy on As-Sadat's policy contradicts the Sudanese people's views on this policy. The Sudanese president's remarks do not express the stand taken by the people in Sudan, Egypt or any other Arab country. In fact, President Numayri's words harm the Arabs. He thinks that the Arabs are afraid of peace and he forgets that the October war was waged [words indistinct] the slogan of advocates of peace, not of war.

The paper concludes: Those who fear peace are those who fear their enemies and thus surrender to them.

ALGERIA

FLN CONGRESS CONVENES 27 JAN, CHAIRMAN ELECTED

LD271636 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] The Fourth FLN Congress opened this morning in the 19 June Hall in the Olympic quarter of the capital under the banner: "Application of the National Charter and Allegiance to the Late President Houari Boumediene."

The conferees listened to the representative of the congress' Provisional Bureau at the opening of the session. He delivered a speech in which he described the conditions under which this historic gathering was being held, noting especially that it came after the departure of President Houari Boumediene. He wished the congress success in its work.

After that, the internal rules of the congress were approved and the congress' bureau was elected. The bureau is composed of five strugglers under the chairmanship of Boualem Ben Hamouda.

Four points on the agenda were approved. These points are: To debate basic rules of the party; to debate various resolutions; the election of a Central Committee; and the appointment of a nominee to the Presidency.

After this, Boualem Ben Hamouda spoke and introduced the president of the country, who delivered a speech at the congress.

The speeches of Boualem Ben Hamouda, chairman of the congress' bureau, and Rabah Bitat, president of the country, stressed the need to continue along the path that the late president took and renewed the pledge to carry on with the Socialist march.

Bitat Addresses Congress

LD281810 Algiers AP in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers--Rabah Bitat, president of the state, delivered a speech at the opening of the Fourth FLN Congress. Here is the text:

Brothers, sisters: Being faithful to the pledge we made to our dutiful martyrs to continue the march of our advancing revolution and to crown the building of our noble homeland, we are here today at the Fourth FLN Congress. On this historic and most significant occasion for the future of our country, which is of the utmost importance regarding the fateful resolutions to be produced by our congress, I am pleased to welcome all brother strugglers and sister strugglers who have come to take part in this great gathering.

Our congress is being held a month after the Algerian people said farewell to their leader and pioneer, the late President Houari Boumediene, with the greatest respect and splendor. The finest way we can immortalize the memory of the dutiful son of Algeria, our brother Houari Boumediene, God's mercy be upon him, is to lay the last stone of the edifice of our nascent state, namely the convening of this congress. The strong cohesion which we have seen between our people and their departing leader is but a guarantee for the continuity of the revolutionary march. The only inheritance and the real heritage which we can leave for our sons is to instill in them to work to build a diligent and respected country founded on strong bases which cannot be uprooted by the removal of men and cannot be moved by events.

This is the direction which has been sought by the revolutionary authority during the past years of the history of our victorious revolution in order to establish solid pillars for our economic, social and cultural development, and in order to cement the solid foundations of its political system.

The building of a socialist society can only be realized by organizing a revolutionary authority fused in the revolution and pledged to defend it with full determination. This authority should foremostly be, the secure guarantee of ongoing revolutionary continuity, and should surmount the most difficult conditions.

Brothers and sisters: The FLN in the past has been the strong guarantor of our armed revolution which will soon observe its 25th anniversary, and it will remain today, tomorrow and forever the only fit guardian of revolutionary continuity.

Since frankness and clarity are the two qualities which distinguish the dialog among the strugglers of this venerable party, we should now deal with that question which has repeatedly been asked by the strugglers, namely: Why has there been this long interval of 15 years between the third congress held in 1964 and the congress we are holding today? In order to answer this question we must recall some facts and some circumstances through which our revolution has passed.

The 1964 congress contained the seeds of all the problems which our country has subsequently experienced and of all the manifestations of opposition which emerged within its leadership during that unfortunate period. Indeed, one man was able to divert the course of the revolution by means of demagogic maneuvers and by causing confusion between the state machinery and the party organs, and tried to exploit the popular masses to consolidate his own individual power. A lesson was learned the hard way from that critical phase through which our revolution passed.

The consequences of that policy based on personal adventure came as a blow to the heart of the vital forces of the FLN and to its organizational abilities. It was therefore logical that before anything else we should undertake the building of stable institutions for the country and the creation of a modern structure for our young state. This required many years of gathering our energies. In that period, we were able to establish people's councils on the local and national levels. We were also able to convene all the mass organizations to create a sound and firm basis for this congress which we are holding today. The Fourth FLN Congress could not have been held until clear ideological principles had been defined. This is in fact what has been happening since the people endorsed the National Charter, which has become the dividing line between those who support and those who oppose the revolution.

It may be a long time before the reasons can be given which prevented the holding of the congress earlier than today, or discussion of the role of the party in the ideological direction of the revolution. But what is undeniably important is that the road we have pursued has in fact led us to the completion of the construction of the basis state institutions and to the crowning achievement of holding this great congress.

Thus the basic promise of 19 June 1965 has been fulfilled in spite of all the difficulties arising from the building of a strong state and the creation of a modern economy, the aim of which is to meet the needs of the masses, and in spite of all the obstacles which emerged and were overcome, thanks to the vigilance of our people.

Brother militants, the revolutionary leadership which assumed power in the country under the late President Houari Boumediene has now accomplished this important task which it had discharged with honor and sincerity, and now has the honor of presenting its members at this historical moment to the congress as FLN militants. History will testify that our glorious nation was able to face the most difficult circumstances through which its political development had to pass by maintaining the discipline and unity of those sacred principles which it ordained for itself. That was the most important lesson which we could draw with regard to the conduct of our people and their leaders during recent months when all closed ranks to preserve the continuity of the immortal revolution.

Brothers and sisters: It is not my intention to evaluate the huge achievements or to review the long road we have traversed toward the development of the country since the last congress. Our achievements are the best answer to those speculators who predicted political anarchy and ideological changes after the death of our late president. Our people, with complete firmness and pride, gave critics the answer that in Algeria there will be no other choice than the socialist one. We have been able to disappoint the critics by securing a political succession in the country according to the methods dictated by the constitution; I am certain that the congress will know how to answer those people by its decisive resolutions. I am also certain that our congress will reaffirm its absolute adherence to the unanimously approved National Charter, and its determination to entrench its principles and directives.

The new tasks to emerge from this conference will doubtlessly demand that all officials fully appreciate the importance of the FLN, which is rightly the basis of our national establishments. Accordingly, it befalls all strugglers of the party to make it a strong party whose future is closely linked to the future of the socialist revolution, and to live up to the standards of the hopes which we attach to it.

In conclusion, I bless your congress, to which our people pin all their hopes. Let us rise to the level of confidence they have placed in us. In view of the historical role which will be played by this congress, I appeal to you to make loyalty to the late president your objective, devotion to justice and good deeds your watchword, and experience and harmony your guiding line because you have behind you a people eager to hear your resolutions which will determine their destiny and dispel the nightmare of waiting and anxiety.

There are also brothers in the Western Sahara and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front who are keen to hear from you, friends who are interested in knowing what you have achieved and are resolved to achieve, and peace and justice-loving peoples throughout the world who look to our country with aspirations and expectation. Therefore, brother militants, we are today the focus of the attention of the world and the object of predictions and assumptions. We must remain consistent as champions of peace, justice and good. But at the same time we must fight backwardness, colonialism and every form of exploitation, enslavement, racial discrimination and tyranny. Long live the FLN, the socialist revolution. Glory and immortality to our noble martyrs. God will grant success. Peace be upon you.

Yahiaoui Addresses Congress

LD281915 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Summary] At 1530 the work of the evening session of the FLN congress was resumed. Mohamed Salah Yahiaqui, the executive officer in charge of the party apparatus, addressed the congress.

"In his speech, brother Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui talked about the stages through which the Algerian people's struggle has passed, from the time of the resistance of Prince Abdelkader to the outbreak of the 1 November armed revolution in 1954. Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui evaluated the achievements of the Algerian revolution since the historic uprising of 19 June under the leadership of the great militant President Houari Boumediene. He then recalled the energetic efforts made for the convening of the fourth congress under the slogan of: Implementation of the National Charter and loyalty to the line drawn up by President Houari Boumediene, efforts that led to the formation of central committees at the level of the party machinery and the holding of conferences of the mass organizations in preparation for the convention of this congress.

"In the course of his speech, Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui announced the end of the tasks of the council of the revolution and the tasks of the heads of central committees of the party and [words indistinct]. Brother Salah Yahiaoui recalled the statement of the revolutionary leadership emanating from the uprising of 19 June, a statement which basically called for selfless work and a responsible spirit in the building of the party and the state, without demagogy, until the Algerian people approve the National Charter and the constitution--the two documents for the implementation of which the political leadership pledged to continue to work in letter and spirit.

"The officer in charge of the party apparatus referred to the painful time during which this congress is being held and he said: It is being held after we said farewell to our militant leader, who along with all the sincere and upright strugglers was looking forward to this great day on which the political pyramid of the revolution is peaked. Then brother Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui referred to the confusion witnessed by the country in various fields during the first years of independence. This confusion caused the outbreak of the 19 June 1965 movement. It was the historic uprising which steered the revolution back onto its proper course and drew up the outlines of the socialist building quite clearly.

"Brother Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui referred to the urgent tasks, which take priority, toward the realization of which the political leadership has spent much time, and they are: creating political conditions [words indistinct], and providing the necessary structures for the upsurge of a comprehensive awakening within the framework of the people's democratic state which seeks the realization of rapid progress benefiting all, particularly the most deprived. In this connection he recalled the directives of the leader of the revolution, the late struggler Houari Boumediene, on a number of occasions in Constantine, Tizi Ouzou and Tlemcen, when he said that the revolution needs a party that includes in its ranks the best of the socialist strugglers. The party will be the road to positions of responsibility which can only be occupied by the strugglers. He said that these directives find in our meeting all their dimensions and significance, especially now that all the people have pledged--when they said farewell to their leader as he was being laid to rest--to continue the march with all determination and perseverance. Brother Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui reaffirmed in his speech Algeria's stand alongside the national liberation movement."

After a short recess, the congress continued its work, listening to reports from provincial leaders, mass organizations and the national army. Earlier, the congress approved the internal statute and elected members of its bureau.

Announces Revolution Council Disbandment

ID281922 Tripoli JANA in English 1528 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Algiers, 28 January, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The member of the Revolutionary Council and official in charge of the party organ, Mr Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, announced the disbanding of the Revolution Council and all temporary bodies of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party.

The Algerian news agency, which carried this news yesterday evening, said Mr Yahiaoui announced this decision to the party's fourth congress.

28 Jan Proceedings Reported

ID281932 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] The Fourth FLN [FLN] Congress resumed its meetings this morning with reports from the provinces of Bedaya, Bechar and Tebessa, and two reports by the Mujahidin and the workers which were read by their respective general secretaries. The congress is now listening to the other reports.

The congress' four committees are now drafting documents to be submitted to the congress the day after tomorrow for approval at a public session.

Head of state brother Rabah Bitat is following the work of the meeting now in session in the congress hall.

But before mentioning the contents of the reports, we must record the sense of responsibility which characterized these reports and their unanimity and determination to continue the road delineated by the leader of the revolution, the late Houari Boumediene, and defined by the National Charter. The reports manifest a common line of thinking and a unified outlook on our conditions and the demands of the next stage of development in the country. The reports also reflect the conviction of their rapporteurs that evaluating experiences and highlighting of the obstacles that stand in its way will better enable difficulties and obstacles in the way of our socialist road to be overcome. The reports touched on the negative aspects that have developed throughout the revolutionary course which, in the majority, are due to lack of clarity of ideological understanding in the early years and to the introduction of comprehensive development projects which caused changes in all fields, and consequently led to some local problems arising, such as a shortage of housing and transportation facilities for all citizens in all regions.

All the reports submitted today and last night contained valuable suggestions dealing with the methods of the development of struggle inside the party and the mass organizations and the way to synthesize them with the great task of the socialist revolution in all fields--political, social, economic and cultural. In their reports, the conferees pledged to work hard with full responsibility to insure the success of the fourth FLN party congress so that, like the meetings of the various organizations, it will produce important decisions and recommendations and committed leaders who believe in the realization of the ambitions of the masses.

In conclusion, we point out that the congress' official spokesman is now meeting with members of the national and international press to acquaint them with the proceedings of the congress work and that of its committees.

LIBYA

TURKEY'S ECEVIT ARRIVES 26 JAN, RECEIVED BY JALLUD

LD261944 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 26 Jan--Turkey's Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit arrived in Tripoli this afternoon for a visit to the Jamahiriyah, during which he will hold talks on the development of relations between the Jamahiriyah and Turkey.

There was an official and a popular welcome for Mr Ecevit, and Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud was in the forefront of those who welcomed him.

In a statement to newsmen, Mr Ecevit expressed his joy at visiting the Jamahiriyah and lauded relations between the two fraternal peoples.

Bilateral Talks Begin

LD261947 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 26 Jan--The first round of the talks between the Jamahiriyah and Turkey began here this evening at the headquarters of the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli.

The Libyan side to the talks was chaired by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the Turkish delegation was led by Bulent Ecevit.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Ecevit

LD271330 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has received Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, who is now on a visit to Libya. The meeting was attended by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and the secretaries of foreign affairs, housing, and industry and the Libyan ambassador to Turkey. The Turkish side was attended by the minister of state and deputy prime minister, the foreign minister, and the Turkish ambassador to Libya.

Jallud, Ecevit Exchange Speeches

LD282104 Taipoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 28 January, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff-Major Abd as-Salam Jallud at the dinner party given last night in honor of Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit at the guest palace in Tripoli. [sentence as received]

The text of the speech is as follows:

"I would like to welcome Mr Bulent Ecevit and members of the Turkish delegation. The Libyan Arab people and the Arab nation in general knew Mr Ecevit when he was the opposition leader in Turkey. After the explosion of the great First of September Revolution, which represented the awakening of Islam and which was noted by the Christian world, the roots which tie the Libyan Arab people and Arab nation to the Turkish people have been made clear in no uncertain terms....

After the revolution, it was only natural that the Libyan people's hand should be stretched for true cooperation with the Turkish people. This true cooperation is not limited to both peoples but reaches, through its influence, to the Islamic world. And so, Libyan-Turkish and Arab-Turkish relations have witnessed great development after the great First of September Revolution's eruption, because it is a true revolution representing other revolutions in the Islamic and Third Worlds, and because of its world-wide character.

"When the Libyan Arab revolution stretched its hands for cooperation with the Turkish people it had not any novel thing but had come to achieve right and correct historic and political misunderstandings created by colonialism to divide Arabs from their Turkish brethren.

"And so the eruption of the great First of September Revolution heralded the true awakening of Islam, freedom, the socialist revolution and progress. Thus, the Libyan people seized the opportunity by stretching its hand to the brotherly Turkish Moslem people."

Staff-Major Jallud said indications of Islam's awakening and the eruption of the great First of September Revolution guaranteed the reestablishment of brotherly Arab-Turkish relations, since both Turkish and Arab people have played a leading role in the Islamic movement.

The great First of September Revolution has corrected many historic and political misunderstandings created by Western colonialism which considered the Ottoman revolutionary period as one of the Islamic empire's colonialist phases, the other phases being, according to them, those of the Omayyad, Abbasid, Fatimid, and other Islamic empires.

Staff-Major Jallud said: "There is a concerted attempt to break the bridges of cooperation built by the Arab and Turkish peoples, and to destroy the brotherhood built by the Arab nation with the Turkish and Iranian peoples. Colonialism had tried to change this brotherhood into enmity."

He said: "I consider the basic landmark of Islam's awakening and revolution as being the eruption of the great First of September Revolution and the reestablishment of Arab-Turkish brotherly relations on the basis of Islamic brotherhood."

Major Jallud said: "The people's revolution in Iran is one of the basic indications of Islamic awakening in this era."

He continued: "The Libyan Arab people and the Arab nation in general has known the Turkish people as being Moslem, and an ally and defender of the Moslem movement's holy ideals."

He said: "The brotherly meeting will be accomplished, because it is right to see the Turk as a fighter and martyr, with the Libyan Arab people, in defence of the Islamic cause and the Eastern civilisation. After the disruption of relations forced upon us by colonialism, we would like to see our Turkish bretheren in their Islamic face, true to the Eastern civilisation and carrying out its leading role, beside the Arab nation, in the Islamic movement...

He said: "The brotherly Arab-Turkish meeting is an expression of our ability to arrive at decisions freely and of our freedom, in general, because if we are truly free, we have no other choice save that of joint [word indistinct]

He said: "I seize the opportunity presented by this occasion in directing a warm appeal to the Arab nation and Turkish people to reassume the same role and to reextend a hand of friendship and reestablish Arab-Turkish brotherhood which is the duty of Islam and all Moslems. Had this not been true and important, colonialism, and the enemies of Islam would not have tried to prevent the meeting of Turkish and Arab brethren, in spite of the fact that Islam is not a racist religion. On the contrary, Islam came to destroy all forms of racism."

Major Jallud said: "The latest events in Cyprus have revealed that in spite of Turkey's commitment to the West, the West had abandoned Turkey because it was a Moslem country. The West did not view the problem politically, but advanced from a religious precept.

"But when the Turkish people understood this reasoning, they have since tried to reestablish their Moslem character and advance relations with Moslems and Arabs instead of with the West and Western colonialism, which has been pressurizing Turkey."

Major Jallud said that capable Arabs should see it their duty to support the Turkish people in solving its own problems so that the West would lose the chance of exercising pressure on the Moslem Turkish people.

He continued: "The Libyan Arab people in the Jamahiriyah have gained their freedom after the great First of September Revolution, and they do not view cooperation with the Turkish people within ordinary or traditional bounds. The Libyan Arab people place their relationship with Turkey within the context of Islamic brotherhood and facilitation of the road leading to the reestablishment of the Turkish and Arab Moslem people's historic and civilisational role.

"We believe that cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Turkey should not only be on a personal, private level. It should involve the Libyan and Turkish peoples in standing up to their responsibilities, because high hopes are attached to this cooperation which has a certain philosophy, meaning and ideals. Therefore it is imperative that the Moslem peoples of Turkey and Libya build this cooperation."

Staff Major Abd as-Salam Jallud said: "Before the eruption of the great First of September Revolution, it was very rare to find Turks in Libya, because the bygone regime and all forms of reaction are contrary to Islam. On the contrary, we used to see other non-Moslem nationals."

He said: "The great First of September Revolution should defend and support Islam and should open up new horizons of cooperation with Moslems. We now see tens of thousands of Turkish people who live with their Libyan brothers and participate in building their home away from home, the Jamahiriyah. What is being built in the Jamahiriyah adds strength to the Turkish people, and in return, what is being built on Turkish soil adds strength to the Jamahiriyah and to Islam."

He said: "The Libyans are happy because their Turkish brothers are capable of assisting them in their country, the Jamahiriyah, which is the country of both peoples. In return, I believe that Turkish brethren who live with their brothers in Libya are also happy because they live with Libyans who [words indistinct] the Arab nation."

He said: "Libyan Arab-Turkish relations are distinct. When I visited Turkey, I found the Turkish people keen on preserving Islam's ideals and rites maybe even more than some Arab and other Islamic countries. We are proud of this, and appreciate it very much. When we talk about Islam, we do not want to start the revolutionary movement in the Third World, or other liberation or revolutionary movements in the world. The Moslems should be soldiers who fuel the new world's revolution against oppression. They should be soldiers of socialism and soldiers of victory for freedom, soldiers for new values, and fuel with which oppression is fought on behalf of all those deprived peoples in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Staff Major Jallud said: "The brother meeting between Libyans and Turks created a friendly atmosphere, and both peoples discovered there was no need for convincing each other of the necessity of cooperation. Therefore, they have departed from this concept, which is conscious of the course of events to build true and deep cooperation which does not affect Libyans and Turks..."

He added: "We in the Jamahiriyah are happy with the cooperation we have achieved with our Turkish brothers. We are also happy with some Turks who have participated in building their country and ours, the Jamahiriyah. We believe there are more possibilities of increasing this cooperation because of existing brotherly relations between both countries."

He said: "The Jamahiriyah's strength is, in reality, added strength to the Turks, Arabs and Islam."

Staff Major Jallud pointed to negotiations carried out between the Turkish and Jamahiriyah delegations, between Mr Ecevit and the revolution's leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, between Mr Ecevit and himself. "These meetings", he said, "proved there were new possibilities and formulas for cooperation...This visit will push mutual relations forward in the interest of both Moslem peoples, Arab-Turkish brotherhood, Moslems and all peoples struggling for freedom. This visit also comes at a time when the world is passing through bloodshed. Therefore, Mr Ecevit's visit to the Jamahiriyah has come as an opportunity to discuss world issues, and analyze the world situation including the development of the Islamic and Third Worlds, and both positive and negative aspects of the world's progressive movement.

"Mr Ecevit's visit carries special importance at this juncture, as talks carried out on international topics proved an identity in both points of view, and our ability to play a joint role in facing these problems."

Major Jallud said: "A struggle is taking place between good and evil, revolution and counter-revolution, progress and reaction..."

He said: "The power of progressive forces is on the increase in the Arab world, Africa and the East generally. Because of the importance of the East in moving world events, we are happy that the Iranian revolution, despite conspiracies against it, has reached the point of near-victory. We are also pleased that Ayatollah Khomeyni has declared that the gulf, despite the desire of Islam's and the Arab's enemies of its being a barrier between some Persians who do not desire an Islamic Iran, and Arabs. [sentence as received]

"We are pleased for what we heard from the leader of the popular revolution in Iran, Ayatollah Khomeyni, who said that the gulf is an Islamic gulf. This is true. This is an Islamic gulf, and not an Arab or Persian Gulf, because we all fall under the banner of Islam".

He said: "The gulf is a bridge which connects the Arabs with their Iranian brothers and makes them one nation, the nation of Islam." Major Jallud clarified: "The Palestine cause is not only the cause of Arabs only, but the cause of all Moslems, because Jerusalem is in Palestine and Moslems should defend their sacred places". He affirmed that "the responsibility of liberating Palestine is not the responsibility of Arabs alone but the responsibility of the Turkish people and all Moslems as well".

He said: "Talks have been carried out on the necessity of undertaking joint action between the Jamahiriyah and Turkey so that Turkey could participate with the Third World in the establishment of economic power for the Third World and to end monopolies, and the monopoly of technology, and to create a new international economic order which would allow the Third World to have a share in international trade and monetary liquidity. An agreement was reached concerning these issues. It was also agreed that joint action should be undertaken so that the Third World's peoples could become capable of exercising their rights and playing their role in creating a just economic order and creating economic power for themselves, and so that they could free themselves from capitalist monopolies."

"We are pleased," he said, "with the policy currently adopted by the People's Republican Party in Turkey of adopting an economically and politically balanced policy, and of replanning Turkey's policy and its cooperation with Arab countries, the Balkan, socialist and African states. We are pleased by Turkey, who was earlier prevented by imperialism from cooperating with its brothers and neighbours, taking new interest in Africa, in the liberation movements in Africa. We warmly praise this move and encourage it," he added.

Staff Major Jullud affirmed: "In the Jamahiriyah, we do not see it necessary to reaffirm our duty in supporting all the deprived peoples struggling for freedom, and in particular our support for the liberation movements in Africa, in Zimbabwe, in South Africa, and in Namibia. The Libyan people have reiterated their last word in this concern when they regarded themselves a part of the confrontation line against racist regimes in southern Africa."

He said: "In conclusion, and in spite of the refined character of Arabic, its depth and variety, I do not find the words which express my happiness for receiving along with Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan people, and the members of the Libyan delegation, our brothers the Turkish officials. I cannot find any word other than reaffirming what I said while receiving Mr Ecevit and members of his accompanying delegation at the airport. I welcome you in your country and among your own people."

"May peace and God's mercy befall on you."

Following Major Jallud's speech, Mr Bulent Ecevit delivered a speech. The text is as follows:

"My dear friends, members of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Staff Major 'Abd as-salam Jallud:

"Dear friends, honored guest, my colleagues, myself and members of our delegation feel happy for this opportunity which enabled us to visit the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

"The existing close relationship and friendship between the Turkish Republic and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah are based on what is deeper and greater than political relations or relations built on interests, because it stems from feelings of brotherhood, love, and historical and cultural ties. We regard ourselves here in the Jamahiriyah as being in our own country and among our own people.

"Since we formed the government at the beginning of 1978, we found the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah on our side with all its friendship and support, and we appreciate this particularly because our country is facing difficult problems due to various reasons. We have all faith that, God willing, we will manage to overcome these difficulties as we managed to do so in the past. We will always remember, while being thankful, the friendship shared by the Libyan Arab people during our hard times."

He went on to say: "The Libyan Arab people, under the leadership of the leader and thinker Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great First of September Revolution, provided us with financial and moral support in the course of our efforts of maintaining security and peace in Cyprus and granting the Turkish Cypriots their freedom."

He said: "I can never forget the valuable talks I conducted with the leader and thinker Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the Jamahiriyah, and with Staff Major Jallud in Turkey and in Libya, and with Libyan friends when I was leading the opposition in Turkey."

Mr Ecevit affirmed, "The fruitful talks I conducted with Staff Major Abd as-Salam Jallud during his visit to Ankara early last year marked the beginning of a new era in the relationship and cooperation between the two brotherly peoples."

He clarified: "The two parties have implemented the resolutions reached during those talks immediately. The two parties achieved a high-level of cooperation in various fields within a period of less than a year. The commercial and economic relationships have exceedingly flourished. Useful agreements were reached on economic issues, and it was agreed upon carrying out some joint projects."

He described the exchange visits between the official delegations of both countries and the resolutions passed as a result of the talks conducted during those visits as having paved the way for developing the relations and expanding the aspects of cooperation on a large-scale between the two countries.

"I have all faith that the talks which will be conducted during this visit will lead to our cooperation and solidarity to the furthest limits."

He clarified that his government was eager to create an atmosphere characterised by close relations, constructive cooperation and reciprocal confidence, and that it strongly believed that these principles would secure peaceful coexistence for the two peoples, as well as for the peoples of the area and the whole world. He added that the Turkish movement was doing its best, within the framework of these principles, to reinforce friendly relations with all countries in the area on a permanent basis.

Mr Ecevit affirmed the existence of the necessary positive factors between the Jamahiriyah and Turkey and their solidarity in the area as two Mediterranean states.

He added: "These close ties emanate from a common history, and provide the moral background through which these ties are easily evaluated to their utmost limits and in the interests of both our countries." He said: "Through cooperation, solidarity and by giving particular attention to developing countries in the area, imperialist monetary and political penetration could be stopped, and a new and just world economic order established, especially when we know that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Turkish Republic are in a complementing position in all fields leading to development and strength in economic cooperation, and fast development in other fields, especially agriculture and industry. This analysis is based on a realistic appraisal of both countries' position."

He said: "We, in Turkey, are following, with great pride and admiration, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's efforts in using its natural resources in the interests of its people and future, and of its giving great importance to fast development in all fields, especially agriculture and industry. We consider it Turkey's duty to support these steps by providing technical know-how and manpower, because we see no distinction between the Libyan Arab people's happiness and welfare and that of the Turkish people. We sincerely believe that the Libyan Arab people share the same feeling towards its brethren Turkish people through its aid in solving Turkish economic problems of recent years."

Mr Ecevit affirmed Turkey's support for other peoples' struggle for liberation. He said: "The Turkish people under the leadership of Ataturk, founder of the modern Turkish state, has played a significant role in initiating liberation and independence movements in the world, and considered supporting all liberation and independence movements in the world an historic responsibility of Turkey. Stemming from this concept, and from our sense of responsibility, we follow with pride and support the success achieved recently by African countries in obtaining independence and freedom in spite of the problems encountered by them."

"We strongly believe that African people can solve their own problems by themselves without any foreign intervention. We believe that this path is the only correct one. We believe the existence of imperialist regimes based on racial discrimination in some parts of Africa is an inhumane and reactionary existence. The Turkish people support all uprisings which end such racial discrimination." Talking about foreign intervention in the area, Mr Ecevit said: "There are various differences in our area. Foreign intervention in the area from abroad aimed at finding a settlement for these disputes does not lead to the desired results, on the contrary, it leads to the creation of other disputes." He stressed the necessity of the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from all occupied territories and of giving to the Palestinian people their rights including their right to establish an independent state. We believe that any settlements not including the Palestinian people's rights are neither practical nor worth considering," he said. Talking about the Cyprus problem, Mr Ecevit said: "My government believes that the problem of Cyprus cannot be solved except through negotiations between the two Greek and Turkish communities. The Turkish Government was trying hard, in cooperation with the federated Turkish Cypriot state to establish an independent non-aligned federal state with two areas and two communities."

Talks Held

LD291048 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 29 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 29 January, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Both Libyan Arab and Turkish sides held talks at the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli at noon yesterday, Sunday, under the joint chairmanship of Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Mr Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish prime minister.

The meeting was attended by both secretaries of housing and the exterior, the assistant under secretary for technical affairs at the Foreign Secretariat and the Jamahiriyah ambassador to Turkey and from the Turkish side, both the Turkish minister for foreign affairs and the Turkish ambassador to the Jamahiriayah.

MAURITANIA

FORMER PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER HOSPITALIZED

PA271349 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 27 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, Jan 27 (AFP)--Mauritania's former President Moktar Ould Daddah and former Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass are both ill and in hospital, reliable sources said here today.

The sources, whose reports have not been confirmed officially, said the ex-president was in hospital at Kiffa, central Mauritania, while Mr Mouknass was in a Paris hospital.

Observers here said other members of the former government, and Sall Abduliaziz, the speaker of the National Assembly dissolved by the new regime, are still held in a military camp near here.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI MEETS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS

LD272344 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] The president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, received his excellency the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum at his office in the People's Palace at 1000 today. They discussed bilateral relations in various fields. The meeting was attended by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, who is currently touring East Africa.

JERUSALEM REPORTS EGYPTIAN REJECTION OF ISRAELI PROPOSALS

TA271927 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 27 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The U.S. roving envoy, Alfred Atherton, is now meeting with Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Jerusalem. Our political correspondent says that the Egyptians have rejected the formulations agreed upon in the talks Atherton held in Israel.

Tomorrow the Cabinet will hear a report from the prime minister and the foreign minister on the results of Atherton's talks in Egypt.

Mr. Atherton returned from Cairo this afternoon, and, on his arrival, met with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in the latter's home in Zahala. Here is a report by our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram.

[Ram] Ambassador Atherton returned to Israel today from Egypt, mainly to report on his visit to Egypt, the results of which, as far as can be seen, are a rejection of everything agreed upon here between Israel and the United States, both on the issue of the priority of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty over other agreements and, apparently, also on the issue of the review of the security arrangements in Sinai.

The talk between the foreign minister and the U.S. ambassador lasted for 90 minutes. From Zahala, Atherton, Ambassador Lewis and the legal adviser, Herbert Hansell made their way to the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem.

The current evaluation is that there will be no continuation of the talks in Jerusalem. Mr. Atherton will leave for Washington and the ball is in the court of the United States which, in its contacts with Egypt, will try to get the wheels of the negotiations moving again.

Cabinet 'Regrets' Egyptian Rejection

NC281128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At the end of the weekly Cabinet session, Prime Minister Begin told reporters that the Israeli Cabinet regrets the Egyptian rejection of the proposals conveyed to it by U.S. envoy Alfred Atherton. The prime minister added that Israel is willing to continue the negotiations. Mr. Begin estimates that the talks might possibly continue on another level.

In the Cabinet session, the prime minister and the foreign minister reported on their talks with Atherton and on the Egyptian rejection of the proposals conveyed by Atherton.

Atherton Returns to U.S.

NC280830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] U.S. special envoy Alfred Atherton left Israel about an hour ago. He is flying directly to Washington and will report to Secretary of State Vance on the outcome of the first round of his talks with the leaders of Israel and Egypt.

BEN-ELISAR INTERVIEWED ON TALKS WITH ATHERTON

TA262054 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 26 Jan 79 TA

[Interview with the director general of the prime minister's office and head of the Israeli team for negotiations with Ambassador Alfred Atherton, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram in the television studio in Tel Aviv--apparently live]

[Text] [Question] Dr Ben-Elisar, could you reveal with what Alfred Atherton went to Cairo with respect to the two articles about which it was stated that there supposedly existed an understanding between ourselves and the United States--I am referring to the article about the precedence [of the treaty with Israel over Egyptian commitments to Arab countries] and to the article which deals with the reassessment of the security arrangements in the Sinai after the signing of the treaty.

[Answer] There were two kinds of problems here: The first kind concerns the problems with the Egyptians--and this is indeed the issue if one party should demand a reassessment of the security arrangements--and Ambassador Atherton went to Egypt with an almost final formulation on this, though not totally agreed upon, but in fact there was something to discuss.

[Question] In this formulation, wasn't a time limit set--that is, after what period of time will the arrangements be reassessed?

[Answer] We preferred not to see such a date. Not that this is absolutely essential, but in order not to create any impression that the reference is to something which is temporary--as there is nothing temporary in this, the agreement will be signed when it is signed--and to avoid creating even an impression to this effect.

And you also asked about the second point, and that is the second subject discussed with the Americans. The reference is to Article VI paragraph 5, as you said.

[Question] Well, then, could you talk about that interpretation, which either neutralizes or limits the U.S. interpretation, which we have not accepted?

[Answer] Well, without entering into the minute details, which are very complex and legalistic, what is important is that we might find that article, as it was in the draft treaty discussed in Washington, satisfactory.

[Question] Well, then, how does that letter look today, if the Egyptians accept it?

[Answer] First of all, the Egyptians do not have to accept it; neither do the Americans actually have to ask for Egyptian approval of it.

[Question] Well, then, let us put it this way: What has been agreed between ourselves and the Americans? How does this letter look today, the letter which the United States will give us?

[Answer] The letter in its present form--of course, obviously needs to receive Cabinet approval, as the Cabinet is authorized to either accept it or reject it--I suppose it will satisfy us.

[Question] What does it include?

[Answer] Don't ask me for too many details because at this moment it is still too early to state them all.

[Question] I would, in any case, say that I did not receive any details. However, even if you say that it will be satisfactory for us, the Egyptian reaction is not too positive. I understand that the Egyptians say that what Atherton has brought with him to Egypt is unacceptable to them. How would you see the continuation of the negotiations with them?

[Answer] First of all, I have not yet noticed the Egyptian reactions, even though I am relying only on the news I hear. I have not noticed a total rejection, so that it will be worthwhile to wait.

I foresee the continuation [of the negotiations] first of all due to the fact that Ambassador Atherton and his delegation will return to Israel.

[Question] When will they return?

[Answer] They might return as early as tomorrow. In fact, they told us they might. Then we will hear what they have to say....

[Question, interrupting] The official statement issued by the Egyptian Cabinet says that Egypt will not accept the precedence of this treaty over other Egyptian treaties with Arab countries. Does this mean that the entire week Atherton spent in Israel was in vain?

[Answer] I sincerely hope that this week was not wasted, because things were clarified very honestly between ourselves and the Americans and I think the situation must also be clear to the Egyptians. A situation where Israel and Egypt together sign a peace treaty when Egypt is permitted to be a party to conventions and international documents which in fact constitute aggression against Israel is inconceivable.

[Question] Sir, do you expect the continuation of the negotiations to take place at a ministerial level, or perhaps even a summit meeting, in light of...

[Answer, interrupting] It is too early, too early to know. Really, I think that first of all we must see what happens in Cairo during the visit of Ambassador Atherton there and later, I think, we will be a lot wiser.

But, certainly, one cannot avoid the thought that a meeting at a higher level, perhaps a ministerial level or even higher than that, might take place.

[Question] Finally, do you not share the feeling that in fact, in light of the Egyptian reaction, Atherton's talks here in Israel with the Israeli delegation bore no fruit?

[Answer] I certainly do not share this view and I think that it's good that the talks took place, also so that Israel could clarify certain things to the United States.

[Ram] Dr Ben-Elisar, thank you very much.

DAYAN LEAVES FOR PARIS, COMMENTS ON ATHERTON MISSION

TA281511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan left in the afternoon for an official 2-day visit to France. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Mr Dayan said at Ben-Gurion airport that he does not expect to meet with an Arab personality.

With respect to the results of Alfred Atherton's talks in the region, Dayan said that a second round of talks is needed now, perhaps on a higher level and with the participation of Secretary of State Vance. He remarked that even if Israel and Egypt were disappointed by the rejection of each other's proposals, they still have expressed the desire to continue the talks and have asked for Washington's help.

The key, the foreign minister emphasized, is in the hands of the United States now. He believes that Washington will now be careful before it takes another step and that the Americans will probably investigate a way that will have a chance of bringing about progress.

Concerning the visit to France, he said that he does not expect fantastic achievements.

BEGIN EXPLAINS ISRAELI STANCE IN PEACE TALKS

TA290823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Jan 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin last night again accused Egypt of being responsible for not signing the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Begin, who was speaking to a delegation consisting of 300 [Israeli] bonds activists from Canada meeting at the Knesset building in Jerusalem; at the same time called for the renewal of the negotiations. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer brings the highlights of his speech.

[begin recording] [Schiffer] The prime minister reviewed for the bonds leaders the major moves in the negotiations with Egypt since the signing of the Camp David accords. The goal was to sign a peace treaty within 3 months. Yet the date has passed and the treaty was not signed. It transpired, Begin said, that Egypt presented new demands not included in the Camp David accords. We believe that treaties must be honored. The responsibility for the fact that the treaty has not yet been signed rests with the other party, the prime minister said.

Begin rejected another Egyptian argument claiming that Israel wants to have a separate treaty with it: I would like to announce that this is not true. It is not logical that Israel remain, along its northern border, in a state of war.

The prime minister also explained to his audience why Israel insists on leaving Articles II [as heard] and VI in the peace treaty as they are.

[Begin--in English] Therefore we must make sure that this peace treaty does not depend on the whim of the hostile forces. If it does, then it would be a nonpeace agreement, and, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Israel, I can here declare: We will not sign a nonpeace agreement with Egypt. We shall sign with Egypt a treaty of peace, real peace. [applause]

[Schiffler translates Begin's remarks into Hebrew and continues] Begin also promised that the negotiations will continue until the peace treaty is signed, after which Israel will act toward guaranteeing an autonomy for the Palestinians and, at the same time, securing the safety of Israel's citizens so that never again will they be within the range of enemy cannons from Judaea and Samaria. [end recording]

JUSTICE MINISTER TAMIR INTERVIEWED ON PEACE TALKS

TA271342 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jan 79 p 7 Weekend Supplement TA

[Interview with Justice Minister Shmu'el Tamir by Refa'el Bashan--time and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Previously you had a reputation of a politically moderate statesman, a "dove." Recently you acquired the image of a "hawk." When did this metamorphosis occur?

[Answer] No metamorphosis. I was no "dove" where the peace talks are concerned in the past and I am not "hawkish" at present. Before Camp David I was of the opinion that our collective yearning for peace should be translated into a politically active seeking of peace even at the cost of substantial concessions, and I was very glad to realize that the prime minister is taking real steps in that direction. However, when the negotiations began, it was clear to us that we had to do everything possible so that the willingness for concessions does not transcend a number of "red line" limits. At Camp David Israel paid quite a steep price for the agreement; a price for which I voted approval both in Cabinet and in the Knesset, but with a heavy heart. I am convinced, however, that this price leaves us with absolutely no margin whatever for any further withdrawal.

We are treading a very taut rope in these negotiations and we must beware lest we trip. Tripping can mean, on the one hand, losing the opportunity for peace, but tripping is also liable to be a falling into a trap out of exaggerated ardor and carelessness! We have to be on our guard in both these directions, and this is the policy I am adopting in the Cabinet.

[Question] In your opinion, has the United States changed from a neutral arbiter into a factor siding almost unequivocally with the demands of the Egyptians?

[Answer] In my view, the United States has never been an impartial mediator. The United States is a superpower with clear interests in this region, for which it took initiatives and assumed responsibilities including, among other things, mediation. Up to the Yom Kippur War, the Americans demonstrated more willingness to support Israel's positions since, in their view, U.S. interests required that. But even then those positions were far from coinciding with the Israeli views. Since the time that a certain Israeli weakness became apparent during the first days of the Yom Kipper War, the balance has been tilting more and more toward Egypt.

And another thing happened: In the past--and since 1971 one may say almost without exception--a substantial gap has been created between the position of the State Department, which was very much influenced by oil interests and by U.S. elements connected with the oil industry, and the position of the U.S. President, which took into consideration the manifold influence of U.S. Jewry, a position that paid special attention to what is called in America "the special relationship between the United States and Israel."

From this margin between the positions of the Department of State and those of the president, Israel more than once drew a considerable gain in most vital issues. This is the first time, to the best of my knowledge, that the policies of the White House and of the State Department are so intimately integrated. The result, quite often, is not necessarily in our favor.

[Question] Why haven't you, Mr Minister, ever taken part in any stage of the direct negotiations with Egypt, not even in the legal stages, which are now proving to be the main stumbling blocks in the negotiations for peace?

[Answer] There are three answers to your question.

--As a Cabinet member I participated in the Cabinet discussions and was taking a very active part at every stage of the Cabinet discussions as they occurred. I also always held special discussions and consultations with the government's legal adviser, who was a member of the teams conducting the direct negotiations.

--As for the composition of the delegation itself, this was decided on by the prime minister, with the Cabinet's approval. It is true that I wanted to take part in the delegation, and this had been also proposed by the deputy prime minister, Prof Yiga'el Yadin, but the proposal was not adopted and I offered my contribution and continue contributing in the manner I mentioned.

--The pointed debate between us and the Egyptians as well as between us and the Americans is not legalistic and certainly not argumentative. A political and military debate is expressed--regardless whether by word of mouth or in writing--by words and sentences. You must keep in mind that all we are doing now is editing the peace treaty and in such a treaty there are positions, objectives and solutions that have to be translated into articles and formulas.

Of what, eventually, is the peace between us and the Egyptians composed? It consists of their receiving the Sinai Peninsula and of our receiving a commitment for peace that is formulated in the treaty. Thus, this I.O.U. that we are receiving has to be given the best protective armor possible.

[Question] The president of Egypt has behind him a history that obliges us to adopt maximum caution in our relations with him. The man was a Nazi agent in Egypt during World War II and he cooperated with Field Marshall Rommel when the latter stood at the gates of Cairo; the Egyptian president misled us by a very shrewd strategic tactic in the Yom Kippur War; who can give us a guarantee that all his flowery proclamations of "no more war" are nothing but empty words hiding another "maneuver?"

[Answer] I can add to your list. He also turned his back on the Soviets, with whom he had had a friendly alliance (a necessary step in itself, but should be included in your list nevertheless). He also made changes in the top echelon surrounding him, even recently, such as the lightning dismissal of Gen 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, his right hand, on 11 minute's notice. In other words, in the sum total of the risks for Israel, we must also be aware of possibilities of a sudden turn, be it through a change of position on the part of the Egyptian president or through an overthrow of the president himself by other forces. Hence, the utmost importance of the military part of the peace agreement, which deals mainly in the demilitarization of the better part of the Sinai Peninsula.

But I will tell you even more than that: In making the peace agreement--and I think there is a good chance that we shall reach an agreement--Israel is knowingly assuming certain risks. After 30 years of siege and five wars, and with an eye open to what is happening in the world--Taiwan through South Africa and Rhodesia and up to Iran and Turkey--Israel must try to turn toward a new path, despite the painful concessions and the risks involved.

Let's not forget--and many tend to forget this--that Egypt needs peace no less than we do, and that in this treaty Egypt is going to get such a fat and substantial slice that it too would be assuming a considerable risk if it did not sign the peace agreement on this occasion. Thus, anyone who is prodding us and saying: Sign immediately and unconditionally, is in fact reducing the prospects for peace and is weakening Israel's stand.

[Question] What is your present relationship with Prime Minister Menahem Begin like, considering the bitter residue of the past between you?

[Answer] We act in complete cooperation and I am glad that since our joining the Cabinet this cooperation has been growing even closer. One of the prime minister's aides described this poignantly and candidly when he said: "Relations between people are like a book. There is no need to tear off pages, one goes on to a new page!"

SHARON INTERVIEWED ON SETTLEMENT, PEACE AGREEMENT ISSUES

TA261130 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jan 79 pp 28, 37 TA

[Interview with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dov Goldstein during the former's tour of the green line settlements this week--date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] I found a green "signpost" in settlements in Samaria. Its top arrow points at the words: "settlement--peace." Under this an arrow points to the left: "autonomy--war." Do you, Mr Minister, sympathize with this political signpost?

[Answer] I sympathize with its first part completely. Settlement means peace. I do not sympathize with the second part. Settlement [as published] does not have to lead to war. That depends on us. That depends on our decisions and our actions.

[Question] Is it true that you are proposing that the government should not sign a peace agreement with Egypt--even if it succeeds in bridging the gaps in the various formulations--until it reaches a decision on the nature of the autonomy?

[Answer] I will explain exactly what I proposed and what I am demanding: There is no room for a reevaluation by Israel of the peace issue. The Government of Israel decided on peace, initiated its moves and reached the threshold of signing. Our aim must be to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible and sign the peace treaty. We must not prolong the negotiations--there is no point in and no reason for prolonging the negotiations over issues which, practically speaking, would neither add nor detract.

[Question] This week, in the talks with the Americans, was a way found to resolve the points in dispute?

[Answer] I am sure that the way will be found to resolve the formulation problems and it will be possible to sign the agreement. However, I would like to say, at this point: We are dealing with issues which are not the main ones. For many days and for many weeks we have been disturbed by matters which maybe are very important, but definitely not the most important-- not those which will decide our fate. This must be stopped.

[Question] What, as you see it, are the main issues and matters which are really important?

[Answer] How to strengthen our security and our status in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. This is the main issue.

[Question] And are you proposing the postponement of the signing of the peace agreement with Egypt until we strengthen our security and status in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip?

[Answer] God forbid! This is a process which will take years, even if it is taken up by the government with enthusiasm, vigor and devotion--and it should be tackled as a national target of prime importance. And I am saying that a peace agreement with Egypt should be signed--and can be signed--with all possible speed. I am not claiming, under any circumstances, that signing an agreement with Egypt, or the support of the United States, should be made dependent on Israel's national target in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. No! But there is one condition here, on our part, from our aspect: Before Israel signs the peace treaty with Egypt the Government of Israel must decide what the autonomy is and what Israel must do there in order to guarantee its existence and its security. The process of carrying out this act will take many years. Make the decisions now, today--and afterward sign the peace treaty with Egypt.

[Question] What are the decisions the government must make as conditions for signing the peace agreement?

[Answer] It must decide on the establishment of strips of Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria. I am speaking of three strips, three belts of settlement: one belt, which we visited today, in the coastal strip, where Israel has no strategic depth. Dozens of kilometers east of the green line, towns and settlements must be established: Hares--a town of 150,000 people; Qaddum--a town of 50,000 inhabitants; Qarne Shomron--a town of 30,000 inhabitants; living, flourishing settlements--Sanur, Ma'ale Nahal, Shevi Shomron, Hares, Elqana, Tapu'ah, An-Nabi Salah and so on.

And not only settlements. Roads and highways, too, which will guarantee a territorial continuity between the towns and the settlements. And not only roads, but also a broad infrastructure: army camps, shooting ranges, firing areas for exercises.

A second belt: When deploying against the eastern front, Israel established a series of settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley. There are very few of them and this does not permit their existence. We must add many settlements and many people there. These settlements must also be connected with each other and with the first settlement belt.

A third belt: Jerusalem will not be the capital of Israel if it does not have a Jewish majority. The answer is: to establish "satellite towns" around Jerusalem--in Gush 'Ezyon, Teqo'a, Ma'ale Ha'adumim, Rimonim, Kokhav Hashahar, Bet El, Giv'on. Within 20 to 30 years we must reach the point where there will be a million Jews in greater Jerusalem, with the towns surrounding it.

The decision must be made today. I am not speaking about soul-searching or only about the places we want. I am speaking about what is vital and fateful for Israel's existence and security. A decision must be made on taking over territory for putting the programs into operation--and taking over the territories needed to put the programs into operation without any delay!

[Question] Such government decisions, if they are made on your advice, do you propose that they should be made public?

[Answer] There is no need for publicity. Such decisions become public knowledge on their own and taking over tracts of land becomes known at once.

[Question] And on this basis, will Egypt agree to sign a peace treaty and will the chance of Jordan's and the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria conducting negotiations with Israel over the founding of the autonomy and its institutions improve?

[Answer] The taking over of lands does not increase a split with the Arab population. It will prevent such a split in the future. Today it is actually easier for Israel to do this than it will be in the future. We are today in a situation of give and take. When we give everything--we will find ourselves in a situation of one who wants to take and who already has nothing to give in return. Israel's situation, in such a case, would be impossibly difficult.

[Question] What are you giving today? What are you prepared to give in return for taking over very large territories and broad settlement, with territorial continuity between the belt of settlements?

[Answer] I am prepared to be flexible in formulations and political definitions--but I cannot be flexible on matters touching on Israel's security. In the negotiations with Egypt, I am prepared to be flexible on everything involving the political formulations. I believe it is possible to come to an understanding with Egypt--but the condition is that we do not make do with U.S. mediation only, but look for ways to renew the direct dialog with Egypt. It is not essential to do this at the ministerial level. It can be done at the level of senior civilian officials or senior military officers. With U.S. mediation alone we will not be able to achieve peace.

In Sinai we gave everything to Egypt. Really everything! We took on ourselves a very appreicable security risk and we must tell ourselves the truth and not delude ourselves. Now they are demanding from us additional concessions, more flexibility. [paragraph continues]

I am prepared to concede. I am not afraid of a target date for the establishment of the autonomy--on condition that I am calm, cool and confident that I have, before signing the agreement with Egypt, taken all the essential steps and measures which will permit me to maintain Israel and its security. And when we are asked to make concessions at a time when we have not yet given the Sinai to Egypt--we are still in a situation of give and take. This is the right time to begin to carry them out in the field and take over land, establish industrial plants, lay roads, and secure territory for firing exercises and a broad military infrastructure.

[Question] You will again be accused of attempts to torpedo the peace....

[Answer] I am being accused all the time, endlessly. But the truth is that everything I am proposing here is intended not to torpedo the peace or make it difficult to sign a peace agreement, but just the contrary! I want to make it easier. I want to speed up the peace. Had the government taken the essential steps which would guarantee Israel's well-being and security--in its actions in Samaria, Judaea and the Gaza Strip--Israel would have been free to make much more daring decisions in the political sphere. The government must stop the ceaseless debate over the placing of a comma here and a fullstop there and bring the negotiations back from an argument between legal experts to a discussion between statesmen.

[Question] What will Israel be prepared to give the Arab inhabitants in the framework of their autonomy, in that context of give and take?

[Answer] I am also prepared to be flexible toward the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria, to give something in return for what Israel carries out in those territories. For example: If Nabulus wants to absorb refugees--that is its business. Israel can agree to that. Israel will be entitled, in accordance with its decision, to establish settlements and lay roads and control the hilltops vital to its security--but on the government lands in densely populated Arab areas, where the autonomy will apply, the autonomous institutions will be entitled to do what they like.

[Question] You are in fact proposing going back to the compromise plan of territorial partition in Judaea and Samaria, after this government has claimed over and over again that the Arabs will not under any circumstances accept such a propsoal....

[Answer] As I see it, the autonomy concept certainly contains the elements of territorial partition and, as opposed to that, the elements of close cooperation between the autonomy and Israel. It is true that the map on settlement in Judaea and Samaria--a settlement which I regard as vital to our existence--is a map of partition. No, not like the "Allon plan." The "Allon plan" is not sufficient....

And close cooperation is also essential. For example, on the water issue: More than a third of Israel's water comes from Judaea and Samaria. It is quite inconceivable that the issue of the water, which is intended to serve all the sections of the population, should be in the hands of the Arab population. A joint water network must be established, in which Israel will have the decisive authority. A joint network must also be established for road traffic and there must be full cooperation in this respect. There must be joint action between Israel and the autonomy on the veterinary issue and on the war against sicknesses and other dangers. There will be agricultural and medical cooperation so that Israel will be able, in the future, too, to help the Arab inhabitants.

[Question] And do you believe sincerely that any Arab, in Egypt or Jordan or in Judaea and Samaria, will agree to such an atuonomy when from the territory over which it is supposed to exercise its restricted authority, large lands are taken for Jewish settlement, for firing exercises, for laying roads....

[Answer] Just a minute, not only for laying roads, but also areas on both sides of the roads, where Arabs will be forbidden to build houses....

[Question] Yes--will the Arabs agree to such an autonomy?

[Answer] That is not the question. On matters concerning our very existence we cannot be dependent on the will or agreement of the Arabs. Do the Arabs accept the fact that we exist in the Middle East as an independent Jewish state? Will we exist here only if we get their agreement?

The problem was and will always remain: What is Israel's last line? What is the last risk Israel can take upon itself? In the Sinai we went very far, beyond the maximum. That was a concession more difficult than any other. We were only able to take such a great risk on the assumption that Israel would do what is necessary in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, in order to guarantee that no Palestinian state endangering our very existence is established.

[Question] There are those who claim that, as a result of the weighty changes which have occurred over the last year, the year of negotiations with Egypt, Israel should delay signing the peace agreement with Egypt. What do you think?

[Answer] The changes have, indeed, been very great: Taiwan has been abandoned. Cambodia has been conquered. Iran is in flames. Saudi Arabia is shaking. Sudan is scared. Ethiopia and Afghanistan have moved over to full Soviet influence. And, despite all this--and maybe just because of all this--we must expedite the signing of the peace agreement with Egypt--as long as Israel has somebody with whom to talk. But all this must take place under the condition I mentioned earlier: immediate adoption and implementation of decisions on Judaea and Samaria.

[Question] Your rivals are leveling a grave accusation against you: that you want to settle our children on the frontline, against the tanks, while just the opposite should be done....

[Answer] Over the last 100 years there has never been a truth which was proved so often and with such force: the contribution of the settlements to the country's security and the determination of its borders. Security, to the best of my belief, is not only judged by artillery and tanks. It is made up of many factors. Security springs from a willingness to defend something which belongs to you. With no defined target the use of artillery is a question of willpower. Security is the link between the people and their country. Security represents a personal, close and intimate awareness of every hill and valley, and a curiosity to know what lies beyond the hill. Security means free movement of citizens in their own country and a great love for everything in it.

And beyond all these words: Every settlement is a part of the Israeli concept--maybe an original one--of broad defense, and every settlement plays a vital role in the defense of Israel. The strength of a settlement far exceeds the strength of the people living in it and of the weapons in its arsenal. Any attempt at undermining these facts can only retard the most outstanding and successful contribution of the Israeli settlements to national security.

ALLON FAVORS INTERIM PACT IF FULL PEACE NOT POSSIBLE

TA281318 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[By Hayim Shivi]

[Text] If it turns out that conditions are not ripe for full peace, an interim agreement with Egypt on the basis of the Camp David agreements should not be rejected. A partial solution is better than a freeze. These remarks were made by Yig'al Allon during the deliberations of the World Bureau of the Zionist Labor Movement being held in Qiryat 'Anavim.

He blamed Egypt and the failure of the U.S. mediation for the freeze in the negotiations, but added that the government's moves were also not absolved of criticism.

Allon called on the Labor Party to elect its institutions, which have not been chosen for 2 years now, and to prepare itself for the congress which will crystallize an ideological path, while avoiding turning it into an arena for personal competition.

The chairman of the party, Shim'on Peres, dwelt on the need for peace, against the background of Israel's increasing isolation in the international arena. Only peace will permit Israel to take part in a new regional deployment, he said.

MK RABIN COMMENTS ON PEACE TALKS, U.S. STANCE

TA281900 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1610 GMT 28 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv, 28 Jan--After the Yom Kippur War, it was possible to try to lead our relations with the Arabs in one of two directions: struggle over defensible borders so that the peace process would be gradual and prolonged, or struggle for an immediate and comprehensive peace which practically meant a return to the 1967 borders. The United States, and later Begin and As-Sadat, chose the second direction and we therefore find ourselves today in a situation where the decision regarding peace with Egypt is a current and practical problem. This was said by MK Yizhaq Rabin today, in a political discussion he held with the members of the Kibbutz Hame'uhad Secretariat.

Analyzing the reasons leading to this situation, MK Rabin said that any political move in any direction carries serious risks but that under the conditions created by the moves of the present government--most of which are mistaken, in his opinion--he believes that one should support the ratification of the peace agreement with Egypt and struggle over the autonomy issue in the time left between this step and the establishment of the autonomy.

MK Rabin is of the opinion that one should not fear making the signing of the peace agreement dependent on a target date since this is a timetable that does not constitute an ultimatum and it may also put to the test the Egyptians' intentions in a timely fashion. We had better test the new reality while we are still standing on the Rafah-Ra's Muhammad line, which is a good defensible line for Israel, rather than after an overall withdrawal from the Sinai.

The major political problem of Israel, MK Rabin said, is the United States and its positions rather than Egypt or Jordan. The change in the U.S. approach is most grave and the deterioration is enhanced by the positions and moves of the present government.

The Carter administration, Rabin stated, has in fact decided in favor of an Israel withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the existence of an independent Palestinian entity and all its moves stem from this basic position.

In reply to questions Rabin said, among other things, that even if some settlement is achieved with Syria, we must not get off the Golan, although this does not mean that the present line will also be the future line. With regard to the eastern border he said that one should adhere to the position that the Jordan River should serve as the defense border of the State of Israel. Nevertheless, one should reiterate and emphasize that the Palestinian problem must find its solution within the borders of a Jordanian-Palestinian state.

HERZOG PROPOSES ISRAEL JOIN NATO

NC271306 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Jan 79 NC

[Text] As a result of what happened in Iran, many Israeli politicians believe the United States should realize that Israel is the only solid stable element in the region. But what can the United States do on a practical level? Reporter Shim'on Ayalon put this question to Hayim Herzog, military expert and former UN ambassador.

[Begin recording of Herzog] The United States has here a base, a strong base in the Israeli defense forces and our military establishment, which would cost them billions upon billions to create if they want to do it. Let's give an example: Israel costs the United States in grants and loans approximately $2 billion a year, and for that they have a strong, reliable force in place committed completely to the cause of the West.

The United States has roughly the same size of force in Western Europe, that costs the United States taxpayer between $11 and $13 billion a year; in other words, six or seven times what Israel gets in grants and in loans. And that is just a practical example of the advantage of Israel to the United States. I don't think the United States would want to station troops here, although I personally had never seen what would be wrong in Haifa being used by the 6th Fleet. There has been talk of a use of the Sinai desert by the United States by agreement with Israel and Egypt; and to me that seems an imminent possibility. But I think that the best thing that the United States could do today would be to encourage the incoporation of Israel within the NATO treaty agreement.

[Question] What would this mean?

[Answer] It could mean that we would become part of the Western defense element in Europe and the eastern levant against the expansion of the Soviet Union. We will become involved. Now, this doesn't mean the United States has to change its attitude and basic issues toward Israel, just the same as they don't change their attitude and basic issues towards Greece and Turkey and just the same as there are differences of opinion with countries in the NATO alliance. But I think Israel would strengthen considerably the NATO alliance, and if we have an agreement with Egypt, I don't see why that alliance could not be extended right down the coast of the levant--to Egypt as well, because basically the common interest that Israel and Egypt have today is an interest of maintaining the area free from Soviet incursion. [end recording]

ARENS RECOMMENDS ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

NC271102 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Relations and Defense Committee, Moshe Arens, has once again suggested the establishment of a national security council in the Prime Minister's Office.

Arens says that the new National Planning Department at the Defense Ministry is no substitute for a national security council. He added that he is not certain that opposing opinions are currently being expressed more independently within the defense establishment. Such independence in expressing opposing opinions was one of the Agranat Committee's recommendations.

Arens said that the Knesset Defense and Foreign Relations Committee has not been hearing opposing views or more or less stormy discussions about what should be done today.

EHRLICH WARNS OF HERUT-LIBERAL SPLIT IF BEGIN RETIRES

TA290855 Jerusalem POST in English 29 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[By Sarah Honing, POST political reporter]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv--Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich served notice on his Herut critics yesterday that the liberals might run on a separate list in the next Knesset election. Ehrlich spoke at a meeting of the Liberal Party Executive.

The Liberal Party leaeer explained that Prime Minister Menahem Begin had announced his intention to retire at the close of his present term of office.

"I call on him to reconsider. But should he not relent and should going it together with Herut entail constant squabbling--it would be better for us to run on two separate lists and thereby amass more votes. I honestly believe we could succeed in this and must ready ourselves for the eventuality."

He went on to declare that the government will have to lower the "welfare flag" and hoist the "economic flag" higher if the country's social ills are ever to be healed. The Cabinet is soon to decide on new economic measures calculated to give priority to the solution of economic problems, he said.

Ehrlich claimed that should this be the policy for the coming 2 years, "the economy would be firmly on the road to recovery, which would also help cure social problems. But if we try to advance welfare causes first, we will not get very far and the economic situation will deteriorate."

Ehrlich sharply criticized his political adversaries, especially in the opposition parties. He characterized the Labor Party out of power as "a fish on dry land." Getting back to power is their supreme goal, and the end justifies their means. Labor even prefers toppling this government to achieving peace," he asserted.

"The more the opposition rants, maligns and slanders us and the more uncontrolled the Histadrut-inspired incitement grows, the greater my confidence in the fact that we are doing work. The opposition would not have been losing its composure and self-control had we failed," Ehrlich said.

Ehrlich complained that it would take him many long days and nights to describe the "inheritance we received from labor--favoritism, nepotism, and the inability to move a chair without provoking a strike in some place of employment.

POLICE ANNOUNCE 2 KILLED, 34 HURT IN NETANYA EXPLOSION

TA281754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The Hasharon District police announces that the final casualty figure following the Netanya explosion is 2 killed and 34 wounded, 4 of them seriously. The youngest among those injured is a 2-year-old baby while the oldest is 70.

PLO Claims Responsibility

TA281411 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The PLO has announced that it is responsible for the explosion in Netanya. The spokesman of the terrorists in Beirut said that as long as Israel holds onto an area that does not belong to it, the residents of the area will resist it.

From information received by the Netanya police at noon it transpires that two persons--a man and a woman--were killed, and 51 were injured, several of whom are in a state of shock.

The police have erected roadblocks and arrested several dozen suspects.

Ambassador Lewis Condemns Attack

TA281530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The U.S. ambassador in Israel, Samuel Lewis, condemned in his name and in the name of the U.S. people attacks against innocent citizens, as was the case today in Netanya.

In a statement to the press, Ambassador Lewis says that the people in Israel have again fallen victim to a terrorist attack for which the PLO has claimed responsibility. The U.S. ambassador expressed sympathy for the residents of Netanya and especially the families whose loved ones have been hurt.

FURTHER DETAILS ON TERRORIST GROUP UNCOVERED IN ABU DIS

TA261349 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, said that the investigation of the eight people suspected of carrying out terrorist activities and caught in the village of Abu Dis last night is widening and other arrests are expected. When they were arrested many plans for terrorist activities in Jerusalem were seized.

The eight are suspected of carrying out 10 terrorist acts in the capital and its vicinity, including the act of terrorism in the Mahane Yehuda market last June and the placing of several other sabotage charges.

In the course of the searches in Abu Dis, the security forces discovered a large explosive charge inside a well and it was detonated on the spot. In addition a charge found near the Russian church on the Mount of Olives was also detonated. Several kilograms of explosives in addition to two pistols with silencers were also seized.

MA'ARIV REPORTS UNIFIL CLASH WITH S. LEBANON CHRISTIANS

TA281600 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jan 79 p 3 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] A UN force from the Norwegian Army opened fire last night after 2030 on Christian positions in the enclave north of Metulla. For about an hour there were exchanges of automatic weapons fire between the UN positions in the region of Ibil as-Saqy, northeast of the enclave, and the Christian positions.

The incident began when voices were heard by the outlying positions of the Christians in the enclave, in the northern zone, and it was feared that a terrorist squad intended to infiltrate into the area. Several flares were used and there were some bursts of automatic weapons fire. The UN personnel from the Norwegian Army apparently feared that the firing was aimed at them. They opened fire on the Christian positions. The exchanges of fire continued for more than an hour and tank shells were also fired during this time. Terrorist positions also joined in the shooting.

This was a very significant violation of the cease-fire agreement which went into effect last Wednesday during the early hours of the morning.

Menahem Rahat reports:

The incident was initiated by the terrorists, who approached the Christian positions in Marj 'Uyun and Al Khiyam to get within effective shooting range. But they avoided coming too close, fearing that a hand-to-hand battle would develop.

A spokesman from the Lebanese forces in southern Lebanon, under the command of Maj Sa'd Haddad, claimed last night that the terrorists had crossed the Norwegians' lines and the Hasbani ravine. According to him, the terrorists also fired from the Beaufort Fortress at (Tell Loubiya), which is also under Christian control.

Terrorists from Rashayya Al Fukhkhar village on the slopes of Mt Hermon, which is under UNIFIL control, also took part in the incident.

In the wake of the Norwegians' firing at the Christians, a thorough clarification will be held today in a meeting between Major Haddad and the commander of the Norwegian battalion.

As will be recalled, the Christians have complained that the Norwegian soldiers are friendly with the terrorists and hostile toward the Christians. Recently Norwegian troops have been showing a hostile attitude toward Israel. At the end of last week, during a routine search of a Norwegian truck which had arrived at the good fence in Metulla, a Norwegian soldier spoke out very crudely against the Jews and the State of Israel. An IDF officer who was at the barrier noted his identity and ordered that he should not be permitted to enter Israel.

Military policemen at the Metulla barrier commented that this was not the first time such an attitude had been revealed. According to them, it has already happened that Norwegian soldiers who arrived at the barrier in order to enter our territory wore PLO tags on their uniforms.

PARIS: BAKHTIAR AFFIRMS COMPLETE CONTROL OVER EVENTS

LD261538 Paris Domestic Service in French 1158 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Telephone interview with Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar on 26 January conducted by an unidentified correspondent and intercepted while in progress; questions and answers in French--live]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified correspondent] Prime Minister, do you not all the same have the feeling of being rather a prisoner of the Iranian military chiefs?

[Bakhtiar] I am the prisoner of no one. I was a prisoner of the shah some time ago, but I am no longer the prisoner of anyone. No (?unit) can make me a prisoner, and at the moment I am free and I am prime minister; it is I who am in command.

[Question] Could you confirm for us that you are in perfect control of the situation, that it is you, Mr Shahpur Bakhtiar, who has complete authority over the forces of order, over the army and over the administration?

[Answer] Yes, insofar, of course, as there are still--how shall I say--clearly strikes, there are sometimes acts of violence in certain regions, but the whole system is holding [word indistinct].

[Question] Well, if you are in total control of the whole of the country, do you think that the Ayatollah Khomeyni can arrive in Tehran on Sunday?

[Answer] That depends largely on him, but in principle what I have asked of Ayatollah Khomeyni is quite simply that he give me time to first of all be able to organize his arrival in the true sense of the word, and then to lead him to shelter; after all, you know, there are people who are for him and people who are against him; there are foreign hands which [word indistinct] interfere [rest of sentence indistinct].

[Question] That means, Mr Shahpur Bakhtiar, that you consider Sunday to be a bit too early, a bit premature.

[Answer] In my opinion, it is a bit premature. And it is not certain that it will happen on Sunday. He said he (?would) postpone his return, but I do not know until when. At the moment [words indistinct] to speak with the ayatollah and I do not think he is fundamentally opposed to me personally--I do not think so. The king is no longer there. Well, I cannot prevent the Ayatollah Khomeyni [words indistinct].

[Question] Prime Minister, a few days ago you, like everyone else, I must say, mentioned the risk of a military coup d'etat. Do you think that today the risk has been averted?

[Answer] While I am there, there will be no risk; there will be no military coup d'etat, because I represent a legal, civilian government which is opposed to coups d'etat in principle. If I do not manage to hold onto my position, anything is possible, including a coup d'etat.

[Question] Prime Minister, you must know that the Americans reacted twice yesterday: first, through Mr Henry Kissinger, and then through Defense Secretary Harold Brown. What do you think of these statements?

[Answer] I have not heard about these statements. What happened exactly?

[Question] I will summarize them for you. Henry Kissinger said: We have a share of responsibility for the events in Iran. Defense Secretary Harold Brown said the following: Soviet military intervention in Iran could be followed by a U.S. response. What do you think of that?

[Answer] Listen, I know this for certain: If one of the sides--America or Russia--starts to intervene in Iran, then there will be a general conflagration. Do not think that Iran has reached a point where the situation can be allowed to develop in that direction. I hope that we will never arrive at that state of things.

PARIS: BAKHTIAR GOVERNMENT DENIES HEALTH MINISTER RESIGNS

LD261648 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] In Iran, the Bakhtiar government has denied the resignation of the minister of health, which had been announced in the Ayatollah Khomeyni's entourage.

At Neauphle-le-Chateau today, the ayatollah's collaborators stated that the postponement of his departure was not a withdrawal. They also stressed that the ayatollah's health is very good and that his return to Tehran is conditioned solely by a technical problem--that of the closure of Tehran airport.

GOVERNMENT URGES VIGILANCE AGAINST INFILTRATORS 26 JAN

LD261746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued today by the government:

Once again Tehran witnessed unrest today. Despite the fact that the government issued a statement last night calling on our dear compatriots to refrain from any demonstrations or marches in breach of the law, nevertheless, violent clashes were staged today in Tehran and some other towns.

In order to prevent clashes, the law enforcement officers intervened, trying to stop any clash between the various groups and people's houses being set on fire. Unfortunately, as a result of clashes between these groups and the law enforcement officers, a number of people were killed and injured.

The government calls on alert compatriots to continue with vigilance the holy revolution which they have launched until final victory, and not to be deceived by those attempting to infiltrate their ranks and manipulate their sentiments in favor of foreigners. The government is trying to respond positively to all the demands of the courageous Iranian people. The government is trying to rescue the country from the present impasse through flexibility and calmness and to put our chaotic economy in order. However, those wishing to see Iran bankrupt and weak are abusing your pure emotions and are thus provoking your emotions.

In any case, considering it to be its legal duty, the government will act decisively. Be on the alert and do not be deceived by invisible hands trying to shatter our national unity.

TEHRAN COMMUNIQUE ON DEMONSTRATIONS, SUBVERSIVES

LD261842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The following is the text of communique No 35 issued tonight by the Military Governorate of Tehran and district:

Esteemed citizens of the capital, a number of our fellow citizens have requested permission to stage a march, while fully observing order and organization along predetermined routes in such a way as not to cause any clashes or anything that might disturb public order, on Saturday, 27 January. In view of the fact that the government has observed absolute impartiality in all its policies and decision on political activities, gatherings and demonstrations, permission has been granted and the march will take place.

In light of the fact that opportunist and subversive elements are, as always, lying in wait to infiltrate the ranks of the marchers and divert the march from its relevent program and objective and, by causing disorder and clashes within the march, to achieve their antinational intentions and objectives, the Military Governorate of Tehran and District, compelled by its duty to maintain calm and order and to insure the welfare of the public, would like to alert the public to plots and intrigues by antinational elements and agents who have sold themselves to foreigners and to assign trusted and reliable individuals along the route of the march, so as to prevent subversive elements from approaching the ranks of the marchers in order to cause commotion, clashes and disturbances and, by causing disturbances and inciting the marchers to engage in confrontation with martial law officers, to achieve their cowardly objectives.

There is no doubt that the officers of the Military Governorate of Tehran and District will, as always, watch the situation with full alertness and not allow a handfull of seditionists and subversives to exploit the esteemed fellow citizens' trust and confidence in order to infiltrate their ranks and to achieve their antinational objectives by causing fresh incidents.

The Military Governorate of Tehran and District takes this opportunity to express its profound thanks for the valuable and sincere cooperation of the esteemed citizens of the capital in helping it to carry out its duties and assignments, which are nothing other than maintaining order and calm in the present critical and crucial moments.

[Signed] The military governor of Tehran and district, Lt Gen Mehdi Rahimi.

TEHRAN REPORTS ARREST OF 'SABOTEURS' WHO ATTACK OFFICERS

LD261801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] An informed source in the Military Governorate of Tehran and District announced that this morning a number of saboteurs, wearing military uniforms and equipped with Kalashnikov machineguns and sidearms, opened fire on a vehicle carrying officers of the Military Governorate of Tehran and District while the vehicle was heading toward the main university from Shemiran Road. Unfortunately, in the course of the attack eight officers were wounded; three are in critical state. While fleeing the saboteurs opened fire, wounding a number of people.

This afternoon, a number of people wearing military uniforms, while chanting pro-government slogans, gathered at the Darvazeh Dowlat flyover and in the absence of law enforcement officers, caused a traffic jam, stopped cars and smashed their windows.

In Amir Akram, a number of saboteurs slaughtered a sheep and dipped some blankets and sheets in its blood, carried it on their shoulders like a human corpse and caused anxiety among the people.

In 24 Esfand Square a number of saboteurs, making use of nearby buildings, threw Molotov cocktails while troops were using tear gas to disperse demonstators; 28 of these saboteurs were arrested by troops, who seized some sacks containing Molotov cocktails, a number of gasoline bottles, knives, brassknuckles, long metal rods, daggers and batons.

Furthermore, a suspect truck carrying 19 people and nine small and large hand grenades, a number of knives, one carpet, two rugs, six blankets, one opium pipe and a few daggers was stopped by the law enforcement officers and the passengers were arrested.

NINE REPORTED KILLED IN TEHRAN DEMONSTRATIONS

LD261803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Please pay attention. We have just been informed by a responsible official that nine people were killed in the course of today's demonstrations in Tehran.

TEHRAN REPORTS CLASHES OCCUR IN TABRIZ DEMONSTRATIONS

LD261810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Tabriz Military Governorate has announced that yesterday when a group of Tabriz citizens were trying to stage demonstrations in support of the constitution at the city's sports stadium, an opposing group weilding battleaxes, swords, knives and clubs, as well as a number of firearms, surrounded the stadium with the intention of attacking the demonstrators. Clashes were prevented due to the intervention of martial law officers. However, two people were injured by their opponents.

Despite the necessary warnings by the military governorate, an opposition group today staged demonstrations in streets and sidestreets and disrupted the city's calm with their firearms and other arms. When they were dispersed through the intervention of martial law officers, 3 people were injured and 600 were arrested. Some 400 swords, battleaxes, cleavers, switchblades and other types of arms were taken from those arrested. Two soldiers and one officer received knife wounds in the demonstrations; another officer was also shot and wounded.

Our correspondents report from the provinces that peaceful demonstrations were held in Mianeh, Ardakan, Yazd and Zanjan. These demonstrations, taking the form of marches, included slogans in support of His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON MARCH THROUGH CAPITAL 27 JAN

LD271152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Text] With the anniversary of the death of the Holy Muhammad ibn 'Abdullah--may God's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion--the illustrious prophet of Islam, and the martyrdom of the holy Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba--peace be upon him--hundreds of thousands of people today held marches in Tehran and in other cities.

According to reports we have just received, apart from Gorgan, where the demonstrations became violent, in other parts of the country the demonstrations were calm.

From the early hours of this morning, hundreds of thousands of various slogans, marched toward Shahreza Avenue. Along Shahreza Avenue, at 24 Esfand Square and at Shahyad Square, religious speakers and representatives of various other groups delivered speeches on the Islamic movement and the participants' aims.

Reports from our city correspondents indicate that right now various groups of the capital's citizens are approaching Shahyad Square and will then disperse quietly from this square. [sentence as heard]

At the end of today's march a resolution was read out by the participants. The resolution, while emphasizing the demands expressed during the marches on 11,12, and 19 January 1979, emphatically noted that in view of the people's expectation of the arrival of His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni, no excuse whatsoever for preventing his homecoming was acceptable to the people. The resolution also gives the views of the religious movement pertaining to the monarchic regime, the National Consultative Assembly, the Regency Council and the constitution, and affirmed that the struggles will continue until the system of Islamic justice, which is the movement's declared and ultimate aim, is achieved.

The march was also joined by groups of people from other cities who had come in to Tehran in order to welcome home His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni.

AFP on Tehran Demonstration

NC271248 Paris AFP in English 1236 GMT 27 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Tehran, Jan 26 (AFP)--More than a million people marched through the Iranian capital today bearing the bodies of ten demonstrators killed here by troops yesterday. The bodies were covered with white, blood-stained sheets. The huge crowd chanted, "Death to the shah, Bakhtiar (Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar) murderer," and "Long live Khomeyni."

Hundreds of thousands of people today carried pictures of the Shi'ite Muslim spiritual leader. Shi'ite spokesmen estimated the crowd at two million.

The slow procession was led by mullah (Shi'ite priests) in brown robes with white or black turbans. A banner summed up their demands: "Neither capitalism nor communism. We want an Islamic republic."

More than 100,000 people were also reported to be marching through the eastern city of Mashhad shouting the same slogans.

Tehran's top Shi'ite, Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleqani, issued a warning to Premier Bakhtiar: "If Ayatollah Khomeyni is prevented from coming back to Iran we shall struggle with all our means until an Islamic republic has been obtained. The people condemn any government, parliament or regency council working to bring back the shah."

VIOLENT CLASHES IN SANANDAJ AFTER POLICE OFFICER KNIFED

LD271126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Text] According to our correspondent in Sanandaj, following the death of a police officer who was knifed by a demonstrator, violent clashes took place between law enforcement officers and some demonstrators. In the course of this confrontation, property was damaged and the education staffs' cooperative store was burned down. In addition, four demonstrators were killed and three others were wounded when the troops opened fire. The clashes ended after troops from Sanandaj garrison arrived on the scene.

Casualty Figures Revised

LD271903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] The number of people killed in the Sanandaj incidents which was announced as four in the mid-day news has been corrected by our correspondent in Sanandaj to read six. And our correspondent points out that the number of wounded is 16. The clashes ended when military officials of the Sanandaj garrison intervened.

TEHRAN CITES LEBANESE PAPER ON POSSIBLE KHOMEYNI DELAY

LD271258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Quoting the Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR, the French news agency today reported: The Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of Iranian Shi'ites, will probably decide to postpone his return home in order to frustrate attempts by the major powers to contol the situation in Iran.

AN-NAHAR, quoting its correspondent from Neauphle-le-Chateau, where the Ayatollah Khomeyni resides, writes: Circles close to the Ayatollah Khomeyni believe that the situation in Iran is such as to enable the major powers to intervene in Iran's internal affairs. A certain group of plotters have even invited the people to take up arms against the present circumstances. The paper adds: In the opinion of those close to His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni, an attempt to interfere in Iran's internal affairs would prepare the ground for civil wars. The paper says: The conflicts arising out of the nonopening of Iran's airports will enable the major powers to make use of this state of affairs for putting into effect their standpoints. Therefore, it is possible that the Ayatollah Khomeyni will revise his decision on returning to Iran.

TEHRAN CITES REPORT KHOMEYNI TO MEET AL-ASAD, 'ARAFAT

LD271327 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Quoting the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, AFP reports that His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of Iranian Shi'ites, will soon meet and have talks with Hafiz al-Asad, the president of Syria, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The paper also says the Ayatollah Khomeyni intends to make a stopover in Damascus on his way to Iran.

TEHRAN REPORTS POSTPONEMENT OF KHOMEYNI RETURN

LD271856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] AFP reported a while ago that His Great Eminence Khomeyni has once again postponed his return to the homeland.

According to a report by this agency, one of the aides of his great eminence announced at 1500 that the departure of His Great Eminence Khomeyni for Iran has been postponed, and that he will not return to Tehran tomorrow. AFP has not reported any other date for the homecoming of His Great Eminence Khomeyni.

PARIS: TEHRANI REJECTS BAKHTIAR REQUEST THAT HE RETURN

LD271630 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Seyyed Jamaloddin Tehrani, former chairman of the Iranian Regency Council, has left Paris for Brussels. Before his departure, Jamaloddin Tehrani said that Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar had asked him to return to Iran by special aircraft. The former chairman of the Regency Council has rejected this. He will stay in Belgium for the time being.

TEHRAN INTERVIEWS PRIME MINISTER BAKHTIAR 27 JAN

LD280054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1652 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Interview of Shahpur Bakhtiar, prime minister of Iran, conducted by Tehran radio correspondent 'Abbas Mosalla-Nezhad in Tehran on 27 January--recorded]

[Text] [Mosalla-Nezhad] Yesterday's incidents in Shahreza Avenue in front of Tehran University, the reports that His Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni will return to the country, and several questions from our dear listeners led us to make an appointment with Mr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the prime minister. So we came to his office and asked him to take part in an interview. [begin recording]

[Question] We were informed that your excellency issued orders to the security forces that when confronting the people and attempting to disperse them, the forces should only fire into the air and possibly use teargas. What factors accounted for the incident yesterday in front of Tehran University?

[Answer] Fortunately, today, in spite of the fact that hundreds of thousands of people paraded, no incident took place. The security force that was present today was the same which was present yesterday. Unfortunately, these are very regrettable incidents which occur when some demonstrators, who are either carrying out orders or who have the intention of shedding innocent blood, spread the sort of propaganda which is harmful to the country.

On the whole I can say that during these 3 to 4 weeks of my responsibility as prime minister, the number of casualties has reached one-tenth of what they were before that. Concerning yesterday's incidents, as I have said, there is evidence that hand grenades were carried by individuals, and that one security officer was even wounded by a bullet. My policy has consistently been that as far as possible such things as teargas, firing in the air, strong water cannons, etc, should be used so that the people can be dispersed without bloodshed, because each youth that is killed is a tragedy for the entire nation, and no honorable man can accept this. How can a prime minister who is responsible for them accept it? Regrettably, as I said, some people do such things. Today, hundreds of thousands of people paraded and no one was hurt. Yesterday, the number was not even one-tenth or even one-hundredth of today's crowds and yet, unfortunately, 9 people were killed and very regrettably about 22 to 23 were wounded and are in the hospital.

[Question] Yes, the figures which you pointed out have been announced on Iranian radio and television, but there are rumors that these figures are not true and that the number of killed and wounded is greater than the figures quoted.

[Answer] These are the figures given to me last night and today; I was extremely busy today. I will analyze them and I will tell you exactly what is true.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, how is your general control over the military governorates? It is said that the military governorates take their orders directly from you.

[Answer] Basically, military governorates are established when the Interior Ministry and the prime minister seek the help of the army to declare martial law. [as heard] Of course, I cannot say that in the most remote parts of the country the military governors can seek and take my orders on every subject and on all occasions. But occasionally when there is a hot issue, they take orders from me and this is always, as I just said, based on the principle that they exercise maximum vigilance and that this does not lead to bloodshed and killing. But basically during the last few days, with the exception of the incident in Tehran--an incident which did not lead to extensive bloodshed but which was regrettable--and cases of arson and agitation by some in Sanadaj which we are currently investigating, there has fortunately been nothing else worth mentioning. I hope that yesterday's killings will be the last time this happens in this country. In any case, the government will do whatsoever it possibly can. But the people ought to understand that when they attack a soldier with a rifle or attack a garrison or a number of officers, the soldiers have the duty to defend themselves.

[Question] Yesterday in the Shemiran area, a group of the demonstrators opened fire on the security forces. Do you have any information on this?

[Answer] Unfortunately, we are informed that a number of them are armed; they have Iranian-made grenades; and they import [word indistinct] and Kalashnikov machineguns too. Of course, with the very long borders of our country, it is very difficult to control this matter; in any case, I can say that this is not the first time that a group of demonstrators has opened fire on the security forces. But the possession of cleavers, switchblades and crowbars is a very ordinary matter as far as we are concerned.

[Question] The weapons which were carried by a group of demonstrators were undoubtedly imported from abroad. Do you know through which border these weapons were imported?

[Answer] If we knew what part of our border they are coming from, obviously we would not allow it. Unfortunately, considering our extensive borders and the agitation which has been created in the country, the government's control over the borders, at least in this respect, is much weaker. This is a matter for the Iranians themselves; their nationalist and honorable patriotism should not allow the import of weapons from abroad, and when this takes place, those who know about it should report it ot the responsible officials.

[Question] What program has the government adopted in order to prevent this?

[Answer] The government hopes these tensions will calm down as soon as possible; it will do whatever is possible in this respect. But some people abuse some positions and (?premises). Regrettably we have information that weapons have been seen in some mosques and in some schools and even in some hospitals. We have issued orders that these places should remain immune from invasion, but this position is being abused.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the Military Governorate of Tehran and vicinity issued a communique yesterday to the effect that, as of yesterday, the demonstrators will be treated differently. What factor caused the Military Governorate of Tehran and vicinity to make such a decision?

[Answer] In my view, it was very simple. Either martial law is necessary and exists and its laws are enforced, or else it is not necessary, in which case it should be lifted. But once we declare martial law and then demonstrations, marches and meetings are held without the permission of the government, the purpose is defeated. Assemblies may be held with permission, such as was the case today, and there is no problem as long as reasonable limits are not exceeded. But if we have martial law and at the same time we do not make any use of it, then it would be better to repeal the martial law. The purpose of these clashes is to prevent irresponsible individuals [words indistinct] from holding assemblies and shedding the blood of these innocent youths while the perpetrators are sitting back issuing orders.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, currently there are all sorts of rumors. One rumor has it that the army is not under the control of the government, that you do not have the necessary authority over the army. What do you say to this?

[Answer] I do not believe that the army is separate from the nation. We do not have an army within the nation; we are all brothers, we are members of one single country. Since I took over as prime minister I must have said this more than 10 times. The army's discipline, the army's might, is one of the most effective factors contributing to the country's unity, solidarity and independence. This is the principle of the matter. I can assure you that few other previous governments have had so much control over the army. I make no decisions or do anything by first consulting army commanders. I make the decisions and any decision I have adopted has been always carried out. All these rumors about army's trying to stage a coup d'etat, the army's doing this, the army's doing that--in any case, as the army, too,has witnessed, this legal government is in control of the army.

[Question] Prime Minister, there have been numerous news agency reports since the middle of last week on the return to Iran of His Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni. There have also been various rumors in Tehran. Could you please comment on the return of His Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni and any government (?plan).

[Answer] To start with, I must point out that both before and after I became prime minister, I said that his return is an opportunity and that it is his undeniable right. However, considering the present chaotic situation and the presence of certain irresponsible elements in all crowds, his presence here and his return to the country must take place in accordance with an accurate, well-calculated plan. With regard to certain technical problems we have been having at Mehrabad Airport, we hope to put them right within the next few days. As I pointed out to the Ayatollah Khomeyni in my letter, I asked him, in order to avoid adding to the government's responsibility, to allow us to make arrangements for his return. Right now, we are engaged in holding general talks with him; obviously, the point of his return is also being discussed with him.

[Question] Among other rumors, there is a rumor that the only reason for closing Iranian airports is to prevent the return of His Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni. Could you please comment on this?

[Answer] My view on this is that, as you said yourself, this is another rumor among many others. We ourselves are trying to arrange his return. However, his arrival would not be like the return of (?an ordinary individual), for it should take place in accordance with a proper plan under which our responsibility and that of the police are made very clear. Although I must admit that Ayatollah Khomeyni has a great many supporters among Iranians, nevertheless there are those who are opposed to him. There are those who are inimical to him and even mercenaries who might not support him. It is our task to look after him, once he returns to the homeland. We cannot regard him as an ordinary individual or a traveller and say: Let him come at any time. In addition, the closure of airports, especially the Tehran Airport, was due to technical faults which have not yet been resolved.

[Question] As you pointed out in your remarks, you sent a letter to Ayatollah Khomeyni the text of which was broadcast by Tehran radio and television. Have you received a reply from him?

[Answer] I think that it is too soon yet to expect a reply, especially in view of the difficulty in communications. In the circumstances, it takes some time for a letter to reach Paris and to receive a reply.

[Question] It has been said that your excellency may travel to Paris and enter into direct talks with Ayatollah Khomeyni. Is this true?

[Answer] What I can tell you under the circumstances is this: My talks with His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni are in progress and I am engaged in talks with his representatives and persons who have introduced themselves as his representatives. If the results of these talks proceed to a certain extent, there will be no obstacle to my trip and will [word indistinct] in his presence.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, there are a great many questions to be raised, mainly because a great many of our listeners and viewers are in constant contact with us posing these questions. Another question raised is that one former prime minister, some cabinet ministers and a number of senior officials is the past governments have been arrested, in accordance with Article 5 of the martial law. What plans do you have for their trial?

[Answer] As I promised, I submitted a bill on the trial of former cabinet ministers and prime ministers to the houses of parliament 10 days after receiving a vote of confidence. I am awaiting the approval of this bill. As soon as the bill is passed, these gentlemen will be taken to court. However, those arrested in accordance with Article 5 of the martial law on charges of agitation and other light charges will also be attended to and will be sent to the corresponding courts or freed if they did not commit any crimes, like all other political prisoners.

[Question] We learned yesterday that some journalists, too, have been arrested in accordance with Article 5 of the martial law. Could you please comment on the reasons for these arrests?

[Answer] Regarding our problem with these papers, you may be aware that some of these newspapers do not have publishers or a responsible chief-editor. Anyone objecting to these papers cannot be sure to whom to object or expect the paper concerned to listen to the objection.

Moreover, those who have been arrested, and they are not many, may have been arrested on charges of agitation and provocation; that means that no political or rather no press violation charges have been levelled against them. Therefore, I do not believe their arrests will last long.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, there is another rumor which is heard regarding the change of the name of the Persian Gulf. Have you heard this?

[Answer] This rumor has been going around for some time; I will never tolerate that.

[Question] With regard to the return of strikers to work, how much progress have you made in implementing your plans?

[Answer] The reason these strikes have lasted so long is that these strikers used to receive their wages without having to work. This no longer holds true. I believe they will gradually come to their senses and, hopefully, as demonstrated in certain sectors, like truck drivers carrying wheat and foodstuffs for Tehran or the post, telegraph and telephone employees, they will resume their work. In any case, I think with the ending of unrest--I am referring to the political unrest--such things will totally end. We can then hope to be able to run the country, divorced from unrest, and with the economy's wheels turning again we can make up in the very near future for the intolerable blows dealt Iran.

[Question] In my previous interview with you, you referred to the arrest of a number of Afghans carrying arms. The question is often raised about the motivation of these Afghans taking up arms and taking to the streets. How did they manage to arrive in this country and how did they manage to smuggle these weapons?

[Answer] The arrival in Iran of these Afghan nationals is for economic and political reasons. Afghanistan is a poor country where wages are low. Due to labor shortages in the past few years, the borders were opened and in practice hundreds of thousands arrived in Iran. Recently, when Iran itself started facing unemployment, these Afghans were left unemployed and, because of the unemployment which is the mother of all corruptions, they resorted to certain crimes; hence the arrests which were made recently. Those arrested in this country will be punished in this country. As for other Afghans, once it is established that they lack residence permits they will be handed over to the Afghanistan Government. I hope that on the basis of the good-neighborly relations which should exist between us, they would not return to this country again. Should they do so, then we shall act differently.

[Question] When forming the government, you referred to reviewing the agreements made on the purchase of arms, as well as other agreements with France on nuclear reactors and building a subway. What are our political and economic relations with France at present?

[Answer] We have very good relations with the French Government. This is nothing new; they have always been good.

However, as far as the question of nuclear reactors is concerned, in view of the fact that this is a country which will enjoy abundant gas for the next 90 years and that the nuclear reactor built this year will be obsolete in 10 years' time, I believe that, considering our present financial problem, we cannot accept these reactors, especially in view of the fact that the price of a nuclear reactor is extremely high.

However, as for the nuclear reactors built by the Germans in Bushehr, since a major part of these reactors have been completed, we cannot abandon them; we must complete them somehow. In any case, as things are, I do not believe we need nuclear reactors, for technical and other reasons, in the years to come.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, another question often asked is that prior to the formation of the cabinet, you were the leader of the Iran Party. Do you still hold this post? Are you in touch with the National Front as well?

[Answer] The National Front consists of a number of reputable individuals and old friends. I meet some of them daily. As for others, for reasons which are beneath my dignity to mention, I do not see them. However, if you take the trouble to study the programs, goals and demands of both the Iran Party and the National Front, you will notice that they are more moderate than the programs my government submitted to the Majlis [words indistinct]. I will not abandon these friends. The point is that a number of these individuals are making (?fair) criticisms and others, who are not competent, are raising certain other criticisms; under the extremely difficult conditions in our country they should be ignored.

[Question] In our earlier interview you announced that the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization cannot have complete freedom. Could you please comment on the extent of the freedom you are going to give our organization and what you expect of this organization?

[Answer] Even before I became prime minister, I stated that freedom of the press and radio and television are not the same. This is for a number of reasons, the first of which is that as far as the radio and television organization is concerned, the government itself has undertaken to recruit employees for it and to run a reputable organization through them, an organization that can respond to and meet the society's needs. As for the press, the press is self-sufficient. By this, I mean that one or more persons make an investment. Moreover, the paper is sold thus making it economically viable. This is not the case in radio and television; even in the very democratic countries radio and television do not enjoy the same absolute freedom the press enjoys. We cannot operate outside this framework. The best we can is to reach their standards. More than that, my government, at least, cannot do.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, please allow me to mention another rumor. It is rumored in the city that the government is helping to exacerbate the gasoline shortage. Have you heard this rumor and if so can you comment on it?

[Answer] I have heard so many rumors; I have heard rumors in connection with my death; I have heard rumors on my resignation a dozen times; these are simply rumors. However, as far as this particular rumor is concerned, I must say that I have not heard it. Whoever fabricated it, if it is not idiotic, I must say it cannot be substantiated. How can a government sabotage its own operations by creating such a situation with regard to gasoline?

[Question] And my final question: Considering your earlier interview in which you said that when a country is faced with internal unrest and chaos, its neighbors begin deploying troops along their common borders and the fact that our neighbors have done just that, my question is whether you have issued any orders to build up our forces along our borders?

[Answer] As I pointed out in the Majlis, my main objective is to safeguard Iran's independence, integrity and unity. These have top priority. Obviously I will not disregard these points. However, as far as our internal unrest is concerned, this is a question which should be asked of those responsible for it. Of course, our neighbors, nuturing some expansionist ideas, might build up their troops. We are aware of this situation. We hope to end the unrest as soon as possible and allow the soldiers to return to barracks or to go to the border areas, as you mentioned, for a soldier's place is in the border areas, not in front of the university or on 24 Esfand Street.

ALL IRANIAN AIRPORTS CLOSED 'UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE'

LD272044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Text] An informed source of the Military Governorate of Tehran and District said that due to the continuation of repair work at the airport units which receive aircraft, all the country's airports are closed until further notice.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES KHOMEHNI TRIP POSTPONEMENT

LD272131 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The following announcement has been issued by the committee for the reception of Imam Khomeyni:

The reception committee for welcoming Imam Khomeyni considers it its duty to inform the Muslim Iranian people that, according to a direct report from Paris, the return of His Great Eminence Imam Khomehni to the country has been postponed. Hence the reception ceremony for welcoming his eminence will not be held. We thank all those who have assisted us in the performance of our Islamic and national duties. The date and hour of his arrival and the details of the reception program will be made public at the earliest opportunity.

[Signed] The reception committee for welcoming Imam Kohmeyni.

BAKHTIAR ISSUES STATEMENT ON VISIT TO PARIS

LD272114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Dr Shahpur Backtiar has issued the following statement, the text of which has also been approved by His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni, in Paris: As a patriotic Iranian who regards himself as a small part of this movement and the great national Islamic uprising, I honestly believe that the leadership of His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni and his opinions can open the way to the solution of our current difficulties and guarantee the stability and security of the country. Thus, I have decided that within the next 38 hours I will personally travel to Paris and visit his eminence, and, while reporting the special situation in the country and my measures, (?and while benefiting by the visit), I will ask for his opinion about the future of the country.

AFP: KHOMEYNI REACTS TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF BAKHTIAR VISIT

NC280624 Paris AFP in English 0621 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Neauphle-le-Chateau, Jan 28 (AFP)--Exiled Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni denied early today that he had agreed to meet Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar here in Mr Bakhtiar's capacity as premier.

A statement issued by the ayatollah at his home here near Paris said the Bakhtiar government was illegal and it was "completely [word indistinct] that Mr Bakhtiar had discussed the Iranian crisis with him, as the prime minister announced in Tehran yesterday.

In today's statement, Ayatollah Khomeyni urged the Iranian nation to "maintain its position and keep a watch on the conspiracy."

Last night, in an interview given in Tehran to French radio station Europe One and broadcast here, Mr Bakhtiar repeated that the ayatollah had agreed to meet him in Neauphle-Le-Chateau. He said his offer to go to France for the meeting was "an attempt at good will" which he would make with "great pleasure."

But in a French television interview last night, the ayatollah's chief political adviser here, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, added to the confusion about the Tehran and Neauphle terms of any such meeting when he said that the Shi'ite leader had agreed to receive "Shahpur Bakhtiar, not the Iranian prime minister."

"It is necessary to distinguish between the two," Mr Qotbzadeh said. "Shahpur Bakhtiar already recognizes, in his Tehran statement, that the ayatollah is the undisputed leader of Iran." He said Mr Bakhtiar would have to resign, after which the ayatollah would form a provisional government.

Mr Qotbzadeh said Mr Bakhtiar had no other choice but to come here because "he has bowed to the will of the people." He ruled out any compromise, and he discounted the threat of a military takeover as "a myth."

AYANDEGAN REPORTS BAKHTIAR DENIAL MILITARY OFFICERS SHOT

LD281257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] AYANDEGAN writes: No army officer can be executed without my permission, says Prime Minister Bakhtiar. The paper adds: Shahpur Bakhtiar has strongly denied the rumors regarding the execution of 160 air force officers in Tehran and a greater number in Hamadan.

TEHRAN CARRIES WARNING TO AUTONOMOUS KORDESTAN SUPPORTERS

LD281156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Statement issued by the 28th Land Force Division of Kordestan--date not given]

[Text] KEYHAN, in issue No 10,621 dated 24 January 1979, reports on the formation of the Council of Solidarity of Kordestan [shoray-e hambastegi-e Kordestan] with the objective of making Kordestan autonomous. Meanwhile, during the demonstrations which took place on 19 January, a number of flags representing free Kordestan were noted among the demonstrators.

The noble and patriotic people of Kordestan, who are part of Iran's thousands of years of history, who are proud of it and who are of the Aryan race and the most genuine members of this ancient land, are hereby warned not to be deceived by baseless and misleading propaganda by a handful of traitors and xenophiles, and as patriotic Iranians to cooperate with this division in identifying these individuals.

Meanwhile, it must be pointed out that, governed by the responsibility and duty of safeguarding security, any action contrary to patriotic and national interests or aimed at separatism will be strongly resisted. The perpetrators and instigators of such acts will be arrested and handed over to military tribunals, and should they resist, they will be dealt with as non-Iranian aggressors and will be crushed.

[Signed] Commander of the 28th Division of Sanandaj, Brigadier General Shahriari.

VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTED IN RASHT 28 JAN

LD281105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1035 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Following violent demonstrations in Rasht yesterday and last night, more violent demonstrations were staged there today. According to reports, after some cars and government buildings were set on fire yesterday, clashes occurred between the police and the demonstrators resulting in the unfortunate death of 5 people; 40 others were injured. The report adds that today more violent demonstrations took place in Rasht. The demonstrators, after setting fire to some cars and government buildings, blocked the streets and caused a traffic jam by felling trees.

ABADAN MAJLIS DEPUTY SHOT IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

LD281107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Mr Gholam Hoseyn Daneshi, the deputy from Abadan in the Majlis, was severely wounded in the chest and taken to the hospital after an attempted assassination by an unknown youth this morning.

Our correspondent reports that at 0800 today, when Mr Daneshi was heading for the Majlis from his home in Tehran Pars, he was attacked. The report adds that the assailants first created an artificial accident and then an armed youth left a car and opened fire on Daneshi's automobile. As a result, Mr Daneshi was hit several times. He is being operated on right now in the hospital.

PARIS: KHOMEYNI SAYS HE INTENDS TO RETURN TO IRAN

LD281248 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] The Ayatollah Khomeyni has held a press conference at Neauphle-le-Chateau which has just ended. Mr Bakhtiar's government, he recalls, is illegal and a plot is afoot at present supported by the United States and Great Britain. As far as my return is concerned, I will return, I still intend to return. As far as a military coup is concerned, we do not fear a coup; we will continue the fight.

AFP: BAKHTIAR DENIES RUMORS HE WILL RESIGN

NC281250 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 28 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Jan 28 (AFP)--Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar today denied "any rumour or report, past, present or future," that he would resign.

Mr Bakhtiar said he would respect his pledge to Iran's parliament to remain "in the path of legality and of the constitution".

The denial came after informed sources here said the prime minister had told members of his cabinet yesterday that he might resign shortly. The rumors of Mr Bakhtiar's possible resignation were linked to the refusal of exiled Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Khomeyni to meet the premier in an official capacity.

AFP: ESFAHAN DEMONSTRATORS HOLD SOLDIERS HOSTAGE

TA291701 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 28 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Esfahan, Iran, Jan 28 (AFP)--Religious authorities were trying to negotiate with the military governor here today to obtain the release of arrested demonstrators and soldiers being held hostage by a hostile crowd.

The National Front announced that during a demonstration by several thousand people following the arrest of several antigovernment protesters, two small army trucks were surrounded and their occupants seized as hostages to press for the release of the protesters.

VIOLENT CLASHES OCCUR NEAR TEHRAN UNIVERSITY

LD281732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Violent demonstrations in the streets in the vicinity of Tehran University today led to clashes between security forces and demonstrators, and a number of people were killed and injured on both sides.

Around noon today groups of demonstrators, using various obstacles, including cars and trucks, blocked off many streets leading off Eisenhower and Shahreza Avenues, from the Shahyad Monument to Ferdowski Square, and staged demonstrations at various points along this route. Demonstrations (?were intensified) in the vicinity of Tehran University, and a group of clergymen also gathered at the university mosque to protest against the closure of airports. In the afternoon, these demonstrations became violent in the vicinity of Tehran University and 24 Esfand Square. At about 1430 the demonstrators attacked gendarmerie buses which take the staff to various parts of the city at the end of their office hours, injuring a number of drivers and setting fire to a bus.

Demonstrators also attacked cars parked in the streets in the vicinity of the gendarmerie headquarters and set fire to a number of them. Martial law officers first used teargas and then fired in the air to disperse the demonstrators, and the guardsmen at the gendarmerie headquarters also opened fire on the demonstrators. At this point the demonstrators attacked the gendarmerie building with burning tires and Molotov cocktails, and some of the demonstrators returned the gendarmerie's fire. In the course of these clashes, which lasted several hours, a number of demonstrators were killed and injured and four soldiers were also wounded by gunfire.

We have received various reports regarding the number of people killed and injured. UPI quotes Pahlavi Hospital officials as saying that among those taken to this hospital were 1 killed and 28 injured. REUTER reports 8 people killed. The PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that despite contacts between the agency and the hospital's emergency ward this afternoon, the agency has been unable to obtain accurate figures for those killed and injured. However, unconfirmed figures the agency had been able to collect from various hospitals by 1915 put the number of people killed at 27. On its 1945 news broadcast tonight the BBC, quoting its correspondents in Tehran, reported that 8 people were killed today.

Meanwhile, the Military Governorate of Tehran and District gave us the following statement at 1830: At about 1500 today a large number of saboteurs, and some armed with machine-guns and other weapons, and some carrying sticks and stones, attacked the guardsmen protecting the gendarmerie headquarters from rooftops surrounding 24 Esfand Square. The attackers intended to set the building on fire, but they were confronted by the defending gendarmerie officers. In the incident the officers used only water cannon, teargas and shots fired into the air, but the attackers opened fire on the officers. So far one enlisted gendarme is known to have been martyred and one officer wounded.

The Military Governorate of Tehran adds in its statement that this attack is still in progress--that is, at 1830--and the officers are trying to end the clashes without hurting anyone. However, the attackers, emboldened by the fact that the officers are refraining from firing on them, are planning more intensive attacks. Meanwhile, the attackers have blocked the neighboring streets with the buses and trucks they have seized from the people by force to prevent martial law authorities arriving on the scene as reinforcements. At the same time, the attackers have set fire to a gendarmerie bus.

Meanwhile, a number of martial law officers, on their way to the gendarmerie headquarters to provide assistance, were shot at by a large number of armed anarchists. The officers returned the fire in self-defense. In the clashes about 40 people were injured and wounded. According to the Military Governorate of Tehran, these clashes were continuing up to 1830.

AFP Report

TA281700 Paris AFP in English 1649 GMT 28 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] Tehran, Jan 28 (AFP)--At least 30 people were killed here today and 100 wounded in clashes between anti-government demonstrators and Iranian Army troops, according to hospital admission figures.

Firing was continuing this afternoon throughout the university quarter in the center of Tehran, where students with hands stained by the blood of their fallen comrades screamed at soldiers as ambulance sirens wailed and veiled women on rooftops chanted, "Allah is great."

Other reliable sources said the casualty toll was significantly higher.

Demonstrators said many of the wounded had been taken to their own homes ratehr than to hospitals "as a security measure." Some of the bodies of the dead were also reportedly taken directly to their families.

Troops fired on demonstrators throughout the afternoon with submachine guns and rifles. Bursts of machinegun fire were also heard but observers said they thought that was mainly for intimidation.

Crowds estimated at from 10,000 to 20,000 in 24 Esfand Square, where a statue of the shah torn down two weeks ago has been replaced by the effigy of exiled opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, shouted at soldiers, "Assassins, we will avenge our martyrs." Ambulances carrying pictures of Ayatollah Khomeyni pushed through the crowds, with nurses appealing from them by loudspeaker for blood donations to aid the wounded.

Five or six ambulances circled 24 Esfand Square, apparently in an effort to keep troops from firing on crowds there. Dozens of buses were positioned crosswise to block nearby streets, forming ramparts for students to shelter behind. Two of the buses were pushed downhill toward contingents of army troops, crashing in flames against nearby stores.

The majority of the student demonstrators were unarmed but they implored Sh'ite Muslim preachers (mullahs) on the scene, "Give us weapons; we need weapons." One mullah replied calmly, "If there is no other path open to us, you can be sure that the time of weapons will come."

Among the wounded today was an Italian journalist, Gian Franco Flescha, special envoy for the weekly ESPRESSO. He was shot in the shoulder but not seriously hurt, according to hospital sources.

Tehran Curfew Unchanged

LD281854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jan 79 LD

[Text] We would like to inform the dear listeners of Iranian radio and television that rumors concerning a change in the curfew hours for Tehran are not correct. Curfew hours in the capital continue to be between 2300 and 0500 the next day.

PRO-KHOMEYNI DEMONSTRATORS ROAM TEHRAN 29 Jan

TA290817 Paris AFP in English 0806 GMT 29 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 29 (AFP)--Small groups of demonstrators roamed Tehran chanting "Death to Bakhtiar (Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar) following yesterday's street battles which left between 30 and 40 dead and more than 300 wounded.

No violent incidents were reported today. One group of civilian army workers marched waving their employment cards and brandishing photographs of exiled Muslim leader Ayatollah Khomeyni. Others shouted slogans such as "Khomeyni is our leader."

The university area--scene of yesterday's bloody clashes--was quiet today. Flowers had been placed at spots where demonstrators were killed.

QARABAGHI ADMITS SOLDIERS TOOK PART IN DEMONSTRATIONS

TA291004 Paris AFP in English 0949 GMT 29 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 29 (AFP)--Iranian Air Force chief General 'Abbas Qarabaghi admitted today that there had been protest movements in the service but he denied reports that 165 officers had been shot for taking part in anti-shah demonstrations.

The general, quoted in the newspaper KAYHAN said: "Unfortunately, because of propaganda, certain elements in the air force have taken part in demonstrations. They will be tried under martial law. Because of the present situation the Iranian Armed Forces are on alert, and the punishment will be more severe," he added.

Meanwhile, Iran's Society for Civil Liberties and Human Rights claimed today that there had been arrests in the air force in the capital and in the central city of Esfahan. In a communique the society said it "feared that at least three airmen were executed by firing squad on Saturday at Esfahan."

A reliable source confirmed that last week soldiers had taken part in demonstrations in Esfahan in support of the Muslim opposition leader Ayatollah Khomeyni.

BAKHTIAR: KHOMEYNI CONDITIONS FOR MEETING 'UNACCEPTABLE'

LD291054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar this morning took part in a radio and television and press conference with domestic and foreign correspondents. Dr Bakhtiar said: The condition for my meeting with His Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni stipulated that I should resign first. This condition is unacceptable to me.

Regarding his visit to Paris, Dr Bakhtiar said: I will not go to Paris either today or tomorrow. However, the doors are open. The prime minister added: I have issued definite orders to the law enforcement officers to try to avoid bloodshed as much as possible.

He went on: All I am trying to do is to prevent the return of dictatorship to the country and to prevent the replacement of an old dictatorship by a new one.

PARIS: KHOMEYNI PLANS RETURN AS SOON AS AIRPORT OPENS

LD291114 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 29 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] The Ayatollah Khomeyni has indeed decided to return to Tehran as soon as the airport is reopened, perhaps tonight. This was disclosed at Neauphle-le-Chateau a short while ago.

KHOMEYNI: ALL FOREIGN INVESTMENTS MUST BE REEXAMINED

TA261456 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 26 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Paris, Jan 26 (AFP)--Ayatollah Khomeyni was quoted today by a French weekly as saying that a future Iranian government should reexamine foreign investments in Iran on a case-by-case basis in the light of the "national interest."

Iran's foreign relations would have to be redefined because "no political, economic, military or other contract has ever been based on the country's (Iran's) own interests," the ayatollah told the weekly, NOUVAL ECONOMISTE.

Commenting on the economic objectives of a future Islamic government in Iran, he said: "Stockbreeding and agriculture will have to be rehabilitated in a hurry in order to meet the (?domestic requirements) of the population, and consumption of (?imported) luxury goods which waste all the riches of the Iranian people will have to be curbed."

Such a government would also have to focus its attention on the "mother industry"--heavy industry, oil and petro-chemicals--the ayatollah said, adding: "We will try, on the basis of Islamic economic rules, to help the workers and the peasants to benefit from the fruit of their work as much as possible."

KHOMEYNI INTERVIEWED BY TURKISH JOURNALIST

NC270935 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 26 Jan 79 p 11 NC

[By Haluk Tablikliogl u]

[Text] Neauphle-le-Chateau--Replying to our questions in his villa at Neauphle-le-Chates--20 km from Paris--Iran's powerful leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, said: "No force can stop my return to Tehran; if necessary, my supporters will fight."

There is a tense atmosphere in Khomeyni's headquarters and everybody says something different. Khomeyni did not reply to any of our questions on an autonomous administration established in Tabriz by elements of Turkish origin. Stating that he is not perturbed by the Iranian Army's threats, Khomeyni said: "The fact that the royal guard in Tehran has demonstrated in favor of the shah and that the chief of the general staff has made statements to that effect have no significance, because the royal guard is not the Iranian Army. "I do not think the Iranian Armed Forces will impede our work. If they choose to do so, their action will be detrimental both to the army and the people. The people have the last word. The army is supporting us."

Asked whether "he will order his supporters to fight if troops prevent him from landing in Tehran," Khomeyni said: "Our cause is that of Islam. We risked everything when we started on this course. The Iranian people are waging a just struggle. It is natural for this struggle to continue. The whole Islamic world must take its place on our side."

Noting that the Iranians want an Islamic republic, the 75-year-old Shi'ite leader said: "Words uttered against this have no significance. Everybody can say whatever he likes. What is important is what the majority wants. In Iran, the majority advocates an Islamic republic and it is struggling for that."

Khomeyni stated that he has no plans to collaborate with the shah's supporters, the Bakhtiar government or the secular National Front opposition group. He said:

"We are now in a preparatory phase. If they want to rescue Iran from this situation, they must leave us alone. Otherwise, we will bear no responsibility for what may happen."

We asked Khomeyni: "The Marxists staged a demonstration against you for the first time. Do you s ill plan to collaborate with this group?"

Khomeyni said: "What is to be established is an Islamic republic. The Islamic republic to be established can decide on that."

Stating that the shah's efforts are futile, Khomeyni said: "The shah will not return. The whole world has seen that the Iranian people do not want him." Khomeyni condemned the demonstrations staged by the shah's supporters in Tehran and said that there were people hired by the palace. He added that "the shah organized similar demonstrations earlier," but that "the facts have been revealed."